An Exploratory Study of the English Articles on the Authorship in Library and Information Science

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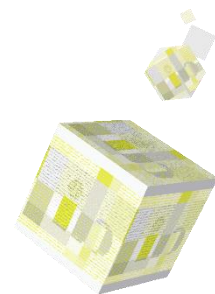
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Introduction

- Through the exploration and analysis of the authors' productivity and the distribution of manpower structure, the potential of research and development of a particular field or subject and the current situation of research talents of the field or subject can be revealed.

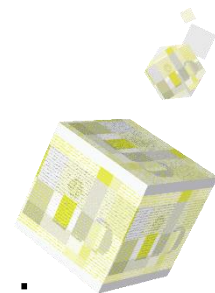- The research questions are as follows:

1. What are the research characteristics and development direction on the English authorship articles of LIS ? What are the new observations and topics?

   Analyze the current research status of the English authorship articles, including: published years and its number distribution, research methods, research designs and samplings, subjects of literatures, content items of research and analysis, etc.
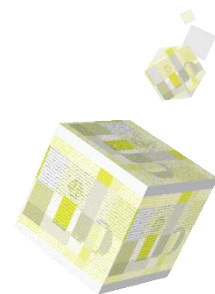
2. Quantitative statistical analysis of the authors of English authorship articles of LIS, exploring the phenomenon and characteristics of the authors' patterns, institutional affiliations, degree of collaboration between institution and countries and core authors.
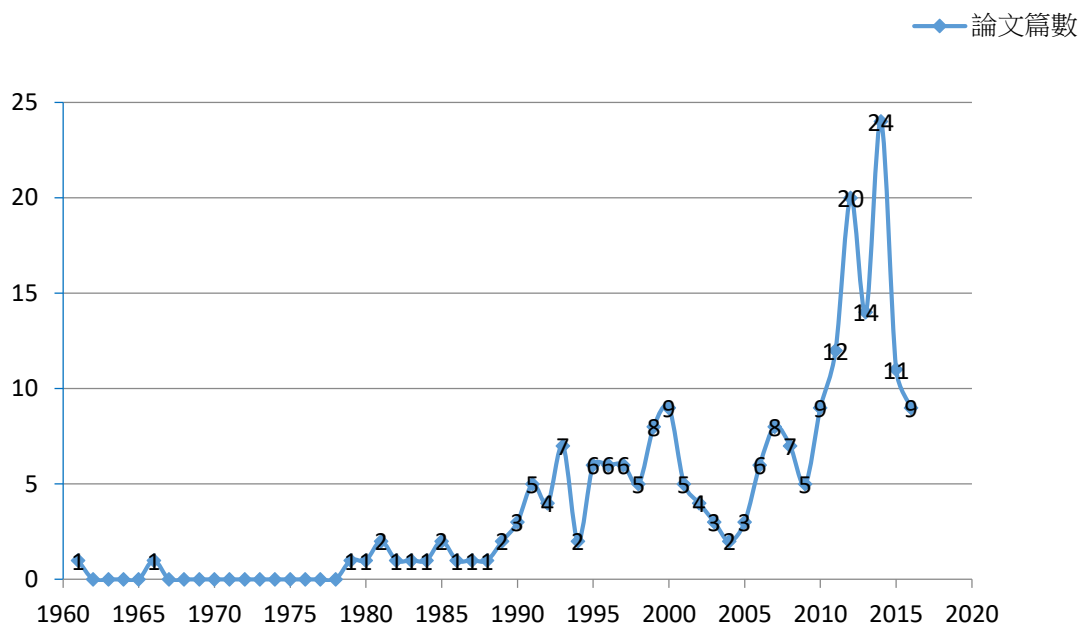
Methods

- This study apply the content analysis and bibliometric method.

- In this study, LISA and EBSCOhost- Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts databases were selected.

- The total of 219 English articles were selected in the field of LIS published from 1961 to 2016.
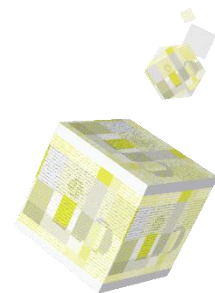
Results

Analysis of publication years of articles

The authorship research in the field of LIS began in 1961. Since 1979, new research has been published year by year, and more than 10 articles have been published each year since 2011.

Results

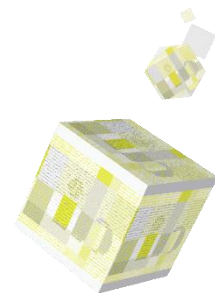**Analysis of research methods of articles**

1. The "research methods" are generally based on bibliometric methods.
2. Since 1981, "Lotka's Law", "Braford's Law" and "Price's Law" have been applied.
3. Since 2005, the "Social network analysis method" has been used to conduct network analysis of author cooperation.
4. Since 2012, the "Visualization" technology of constructing graphics was used to explore the knowledge exchange between authors and transnational, cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary Cooperative social network of disciplines.

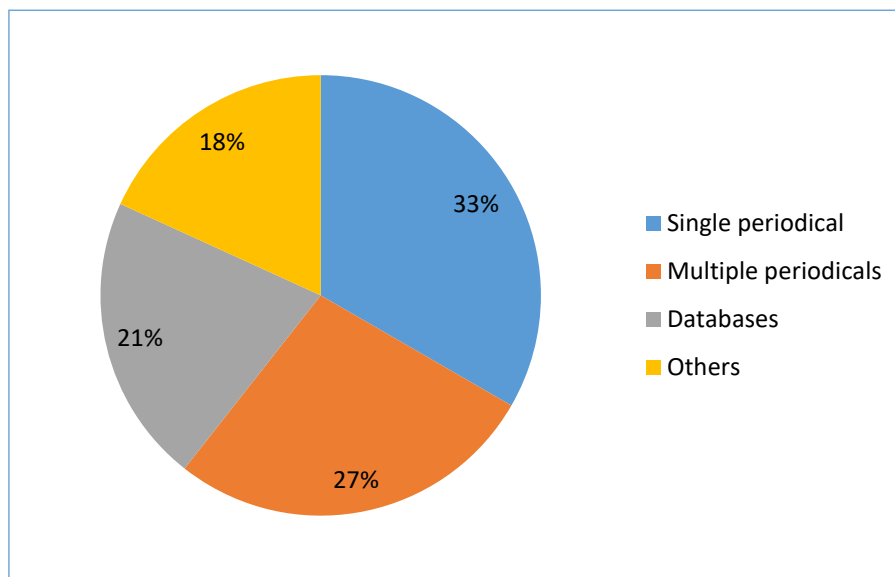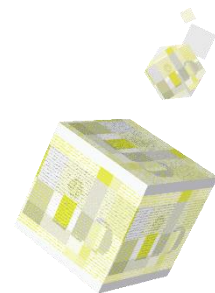| Research methods	Implementation / adoption of laws and measurement indicators	Articals	%
Bibliometric	A. Bibliometric method for the study of unapplied laws and measurement indices	181	82.65
	B. Lotka's Law, Bradford's Law, Price's Law, G Index, H Index, etc.	16	7.31
	C. Social network analysis	11	5.02
	D. Visualization	1	0.46
	Total	209	95.43
mixed-methods research	Interview or questionnaire	10	4.57
Total		219	100

Results

Analysis of research samplings of articles

1. The research sample based on periodicals are132 articles (about 60% of the total number of articles).
2. The research sample based on databases are 47 articles (about 21% of the total number of articls).
3. The research sample selected from specific single periodical are 73 articles (about 33% of the total number of articles) and from multiple periodicals are 59 articles (about 27% of the total number of articles).

Results

Analysis of research samplings scope of articles

1. The number of research scope on the authors' institutional affiliations are 33 articles. The most of research article numbers is on "LIS universities".
2. The number of research scope on the authors' occupation types and titles are 43 articles. The most of research article numbers is on "Librarian".
3. The number of research scope on the authors' geographical areas /countries are 80 articles. In terms of geographical area, the most of research article number is the Asian region. In terms of countries, the India and United States are the most.
4. The number of research scope on specific articles types are 11 articles. The most of research article numbers is on the "open access journals" articles.
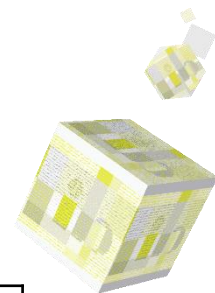
Research topic of articles

A total of 27 topics:

Bibliometrics (5 articles), Academic Library (3 articles), Digital Library (3 articles), Public Library (2 articles), Classification System (2 articles), Online public search catalogue (2 articles), etc.

Results

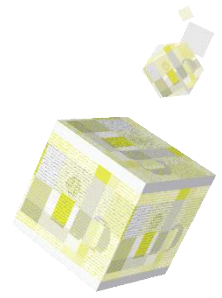**Research content items of research and analysis of articles**

Content items	articles	%	Content items	articles	%
1. Single author／co-authors (authors' patterns)	143	65%	7. Gender	43	20%
2. Author's articles number ratio	125	57%	8. Authors' institution ranking	24	11%
3. Authors' institutional affiliations	63	29%	9. Core authors (including prolific authors, active authors, core authors calculated by the composite index)	16	7%
4. Authors' articles number ranking (including core authors, prolific authors ranking)	58	26%	10. Education level	11	5%
5. Country	52	24%	11. Professional background	9	4%
6. Authors' occupation types and titles	44	20%	12. Age	8	4%

Results

Authorship analysis of 219 articles：

1. Analysis of the number of authors and the cooperation

Auhtor number/ per article	1 author	2 authors	3 authors	4 and more 4 authors	Total articles number	Total authors	Cooperat- ion degree	Cooperat- ion ratio
Articles number	107	76	25	11	219	397	1.81	51.14%
%	48.86	34.70	11.42	5.02	100			

2. Analysis of authors authors' institutional affiliations

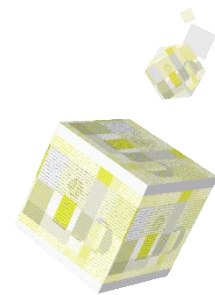| Instituti onal type	Universities			National libraries	Universi ties libraries	Rsearch libraries	Primary and secondary school libraries	Public libraries	Research/ Academic institution	Others	Unknown	Total
	LIS depart- ment	Non LIS depart- ment	Others									
Authors number	142	84	20	1	87	9	1	2	26	3	22	397
%	35.77	21.16	5.04	0.25	21.91	2.27	0.25	0.50	6.55	0.76	5.54	100

Results

Authorship analysis of 219 articles

3. Regarding the authors' occupation types and titles, "Teachers" of LIS universities or non-LIS universities, and "librarians" (including academic librarians, cataloging librarians, system librarians, reference librarians, etc.) are the main research authors.

4. About the authors' countries analysis, the authors are affiliated with 34 countries, and the authors are more concentrated in the United States and India.

5. The co-authored articles is only a minority (about 6.39% of the total number of articles), and the participation in cross-country research is mainly based on American, Indian and Malaysian authors. From the country analysis of the first author of the articles, the analysis reveals the co-authors mainly from United States and Malaysia.

6. According to the written articles number of authors, this study selected 11 top ranking authors. They mainly affiliated with the "non-LIS universities", "university libraries", "LIS universities" and "others of universities" (including research institution of universities). They mainly distributed in three countries, including the United States, India, and Iran.

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