

Trend of research output of scholarly journals related to Humanities and Social Sciences published by Sri Lankan Universities

Navaneethakrishnan S
University of Jaffna
Sri Lanka
ksnavan@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT: *The Bibliometric research analysis is an inspiring journey with the mind and the story of conclusions has just begun to react with implications when the findings explored through an analysis. The present study could enable to bridge the research gap of bibliometric research on the Humanities and Social sciences discipline in Sri Lanka. This study uses adequate methods to indicate research output by analyzing growth trend of research output of journals related to Humanities and Social Sciences published by Sri Lankan Universities. Further it would generally encourage more research in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences in Sri Lanka.*

Keywords: Bibliometrics; Humanities; Social Sciences; Higher education; Sri Lanka;

1.0 Introduction

The growing complexity and diversity of social life demands more research activities. With rapid changes in society, economy, politics, culture, and in other dimensions, the need to identify these complex transformations has become more urgent than ever before. Further, emerging new subject disciplines owing to dynamic nature of interdisciplinary researches; decrease the research activity in traditional subjects like History and Literature. One of the key areas for the enhancement of development of Sri Lankan higher education sector is weighing and improving the research productivity and visibility of research publications of the universities. There is a demand for more bibliometric research in Sri Lanka to show the current status of research output of the country.

The generation of bibliometric research involves producers (study authors, publishers, institutions and countries etc.), products (research studies and arising publications such as journals, conference proceedings and data bases etc.) and usage (measured through readership usage in libraries and citation etc.) over the years. This study analyzed the products of a producer i.e. bibliometric characteristics of research articles related to HSS in selected refereed journals published by Universities in Sri Lanka.

1.1 Bibliometrics

Bibliometrics is an important intersection between communication research and information science. Etymologically, bibliometrics is derived from two Greek words, 'biblio' and 'metrikos' meaning book and measurement. The term 'bibliometrics' is preferred by Pritchard [9] in place of the term 'statistical bibliography'; to mean the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication, which means bibliometrics is a sort of measuring technique by which inter-connected aspects of written communication can be quantified. In general Bibliometrics is defined as the use of mathematical and statistical methods to study and identify patterns in the usage of materials and services within a library, or to analyze the historical development of a specific body of literature and especially its authorship, publication and use.

1.2 Literature review

Nowadays, remarkable number of bibliometric studies has been conducted in developed western countries like United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Denmark and eastern countries like India, China, Japan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Malaysia on their research output for various purposes. Existing literature reveals that even variety of bibliometric research