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Publishing Attitudes of Library and Information Science Professionals: A study

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Abstract

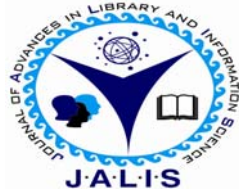
This paper examines the purpose and motivation factors for the publications of LIS professionals. The study was conducted among 249 LIS professionals working in colleges and universities of Tamil Nadu. It is indicated that majority of the respondents are published in journals, books, etc. to share their knowledge and it is followed by to become subject expert and to get promotion. It is further observed that only very few respondents have published to get royalty for their publications. This study recommends that in general library professional may come forward to develop their reading habit that too on LIS literature. This enable the Publishers and Professional Societies/bodies will publish more books and journals in the field of LIS.

Keywords

LIS professionals, Motivational factors, Publications, Books, Journals

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1. INTRODUCTION

The importance of publication in the growth and development of the library profession cannot be overemphasized. Montanelli, (1986)¹ say that publication promotes advancement and recognition for library professionals and that library professionals who conduct research have more effective relationship with other faculty members. The library professionals produce different types of publications and products including journals, books, proceedings, video recordings, bulletin, reports etc. Therefore the authors are well recognized in the field. Joint (2006)² emphasis that writing is thus not just a creative dialogue with oneself, it can become a dialogue with others, a way of connecting and interacting with the profession at large. This dialogue with other professionals inevitably involves putting your practice “on display”, something that exposes you to public scrutiny. This in itself is a tremendous spur to improving one’s professional self-development: under the gaze of one’s peers, you have a great incentive to shape your work more, inevitably resulting in a higher standard of achievement. Aina (2004)³ observes that while research and publication are needed for expansion the frontiers of librarianship and for finding solutions to problem emanating from its practice, it also benefits library professionals.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Powell, R.R (1997)⁴ outlined that research and publication will help librarians to think critically and analytically. Buttlar (1991)⁵ found that academic librarians publish to meet the promotion and tenure demands of their institution to gain faculty status. Mabawonku (2005)⁶ studied that librarians are motivated to publish, especially in overseas journals, to enhance their visibility and satisfy the need of their employers. Ogboma, E .F (2010)⁷ emphasized that the academic librarians should be allowed to attend, organize the workshops, conferences, seminars to update their knowledge and also to improve their research skills. Swisher (1986)⁸ states that librarians are always engaged more in their daily routine than in publishing. Onohwakpor and Tiemo (2006)⁹ found that librarians are lacking where to publish. Moahi (2007)¹⁰ mentioned that lack of time and inadequate of publications skills as part of the problem.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.To find out the purpose of publication of LIS professionals.

2. To identify the various motivation factors for the publications of LIS professionals

4. HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no significant difference in the purpose of publication
2. There exists a significant difference in the purpose of publication among different categories of LIS professionals
3. There is significant difference in the motivation factors for the publication
4. There is no significant difference in respect of motivation factors for the publication among different categories of LIS professionals

5. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted among LIS professionals working in various universities and colleges of Tamil Nadu. In order to fulfill the objectives, a well structured questionnaire was designed to collect the data. The questionnaire was divided into three parts: part-1. Personal information, part-2. Purpose of the publication and part-3.Motivating factors for the publications. A total of 300 questionnaires randomly administrated and 249 respondents have responded (83%). The data collected were converted into SPSS for analysis.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

The study was conducted among 249 library professionals. The respondents were grouped into three categories namely Librarians, Assistant Librarians and Library Assistants. The demographic information is given in table 1.

Table 1
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

S.No	Description		Total	%
1.	LIS Professionals	Librarians	176	70.68
		Assistant Librarians	50	20.08
		Library Assistants	23	9.24
	Total		249	100

It is found from table 1 that 176(70.68%) respondents are working as Librarians, 50(20.08%) of

respondents are Assistant Librarians, and 23(9.24%) of respondents are Library Assistants in various colleges and universities.

6.1. PURPOSE OF PUBLICATIONS

The study is concerned to study the purpose of publications of LIS professionals. There are five major purposes identified and ascertained on nominal scales such as "YES" and "NO". The weightage and rank are assigned from least to highest and the same is shown in table 2.

It can be seen from table 2 that majority of respondents (Mean 1.26, Rank 1) were published their publication to share knowledge, followed by (Mean 1.30, Rank 2) respondents were indicated to become a subject expert. Further, it is found that (Mean 1.44, Rank 3) of the respondents published their publication to get promotion in their respective jobs. It is also indicated that (Mean, 1.49 and Rank 4) of the respondents published their work to make visibility. The chi-square test is administrated to test the hypothesis that there is no significant difference in the purpose of publications. The calculated value (53.112) is more than table value (3.841). Hence, the hypothesis is not significant.

PURPOSE OF PUBLICATION BY DESIGNATION

The LIS professionals are publishing books, journals articles, conference papers and research reports .The study is analyzed to find out the purpose of publications among respondents based on their designation and the same is given in table 3. It can be found from table 3 that majority of Librarians (Mean 1.31, Rank 1), Assistant Librarians (Mean 1.16, Rank 1) and Library Assistants (Mean 1.13, Rank 1) are published their work to share the knowledge. Next to this, Librarians (Mean 1.32, Rank 2), Assistant Librarians (Mean1.26, Rank 2) ,and Library Assistants are published their publications to become subject experts. A good number of Librarians (Mean 1.44, Rank 3), Assistant Librarians (Mean 1.36,Rank 3) and Library Assistants (Mean 1.30, Rank 3) are produced the publications to get promotions. It is only few Librarians 1.69(Mean 1.69, Rank 5), Assistant Librarians (Mean 1.74, Rank 5) and Library Assistants (Mean 1.60, Rank 5) are published their work to get royalty. The Chi-square test is also administrated to test the hypothesis that there exists significant difference in the purpose of publication among different categories of LIS professionals .The calculated value (7.430) for parameter is above than table value (3.841) . Hence the hypothesis is not significant.

Table 2. PURPOSE OF PUBLICATIONS

S.No	Description	Yes	No	Total	Mean	Rank	Chi-Square
1.	To get promotion	145 58.2%	104 41.8%	249 (100)	1.41	3	6.751
2.	To become subject expert	172 69.1%	77 30.9%	249 (100)	1.30	2	36.245
3.	To share knowledge	182 73.1%	67 26.9%	249 (100)	1.26	1	53.112
4.	To make visibility for the publication	126 50.6%	123 49.4%	249 (100)	1.49	4	.036
5.	To get royalty for the publications	76 30.5%	173 69.5%	249 (100)	1.69	5	37.787

(Table value 3.841, df 1)

Table 3. PURPOSE OF PUBLICATION Vs DESIGNATION

S.No	Description	LIBRARIANS n=176				ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS n=50				LIBRARY ASSISTANTS n=23				Chi-Square
		YES	NO	M	R	YES	NO	M	R	YES	NO	M	R	
1.	To get promotion	97 55.1%	79 44.9%	1.44	3	32 64%	18 36%	1.36	3	16 69.6%	7 30.4%	1.30	3	2.602
2.	To become subject expert	118 67.0%	58 33%	1.32	2	37 74%	13 26%	1.26	2	17 73.9%	6 26.1%	1.26	2	1.159
3.	To share knowledge with others	120 68.2%	56 31.8%	1.31	1	42 84%	8 16%	1.16	1	20 87.0%	3 13.0%	1.13	1	7.430
4.	To make visibility/popularity for publications	86 48.9%	90 51.1%	1.51	4	26 52%	24 48%	1.48	4	14 60.9%	9 39.1%	1.39	4	1.222
5.	To get royalty for the publications	54 30.7%	122 69.3%	1.69	5	13 26%	37 74%	1.74	5	9 39.1%	14 60.9%	1.60	5	1.288

(Table value 3.841, df 1), M=Mean, R=Rank)

Table 4. MOTIVATION FACTORS FOR PUBLICATIONS

S.No	Description	SD	DA	NO	A	SA	Mean	Rank	Chi-Square
1.	Teachers of LIS	65 26.1%	10 4.0%	5 2.0%	78 31.3%	91 36.5%	3.48	4	126.803
2.	Research Guides	16 6.4%	9 3.6%	6 2.4%	101 40.6%	117 47%	4.18	1	238.209
3.	Librarians/Library Staff	46 18.5%	9 3.6%	8 3.2%	151 60.6%	35 14.1%	3.48	4	278.851
4.	Application of ICT in Libraries	74 29.7%	9 3.6%	4 1.6%	100 40.2%	62 24.9%	3.26	6	140.900
5.	Books/Journals	49 19.7%	12 4.8%	5 2.0%	120 48.2%	63 25.3%	3.54	3	171.462
6.	Conferences/seminars/workshops	26 10.4%	4 1.6%	3 1.2%	141 56.6%	75 30.1%	3.94	2	277.245

(Table value 3.841, df 4), SD=Strongly Disagree, DA=Disagree, NO=No Opinion, A=Agree, SA= Strongly Agree)

Table 5 . MOTIVATION FACTORS FOR PUBLICATIONS VS DESIGNATION

S.No	Description	LIBRARIANS n=176							ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS n=50							LIBRARY ASSISTANTS n=23							Chi-Square
		SD	DA	NO	A	SA	M	R	SD	DA	NO	A	SA	M	R	SD	DA	NO	A	SA	M	R	
1.	Teachers of LIS	43 24.4%	7 4%	5 2.8%	56 31.8%	65 36.9%	3.52	4	16 32%	3 6.0%	0 .0%	16 32.0%	15 30%	3.22	5	6 26.1%	0 .0%	0 .0%	6 26.1%	11 47.8%	3.69	4	5.959
2.	Research Guides	11 6.3%	7 4%	5 2.8%	75 42.6%	78 44.3%	4.14	1	4 8%	1 2.0%	1 2.0%	19 38.0%	25 50%	4.20	1	1 4.3%	1 4.3%	0 .0%	7 30.4%	14 60.9%	4.39	1	3.691
3.	Librarians/ Library Staff	35 19.9%	7 4%	6 3.4%	107 60.8%	21 11.9%	3.40	5	9 18%	2 4.0%	2 4.0%	31 62.0%	6 12%	3.46	4	2 8.7%	0 .0%	0 .0%	13 56.5%	8 34.8%	4.00	2	10.984
4.	Application of ICT in Libraries	51 29.0%	7 4%	3 1.7%	77 43.8%	38 21.6%	3.25	6	18 36%	2 4.0%	1 2.0%	14 28.0%	15 30%	3.12	6	5 21.7%	0 .0%	0 .0%	9 39.1%	9 39.1%	3.73	4	8.112
5.	Books/Journals	32 18.2%	9 5.1%	4 2.3%	89 50.6%	42 23.9%	3.56	3	11 22%	2 4.0%	1 2.0%	22 44.0%	14 28%	3.52	3	6 26.1%	1 4.3%	0 .0%	9 39.1%	7 30.4%	3.43	6	2.760
6.	Conferences/ Seminars/ Workshops	18 10.2%	3 1.7%	1 .6%	98 55.7%	56 31.8%	3.97	2	6 12%	1 2.0%	0 .0%	28 56.0%	15 30%	3.90	2	2 8.7%	0 .0%	2 8.7%	15 65.2%	4 17.4%	3.82	3	14.263

(Table value 3.841, df 4, SD=Strongly Disagree, DA=Disagree, NO=No Opinion, A=Agree, SA=Strongly Agree, M=Mean, R=Rank)

6.3. MOTIVATION FACTORS FOR THE PUBLICATIONS

LIS professionals have been motivated by teachers, research guides, sources of information and technologies to contribute their publications in the form of books, articles, research reports and conference papers. The study is further analyzed to find out the various motivational factors for the publications. Six motivational factors are identified and ascertained on Likert's five point scale and the same is given in table 4.

It can be found from table 4 that majority of respondents are motivated by Research Guides (Mean 4.18, Rank 1) , followed by large numbers of respondents are motivated by Conferences/Seminars/Workshops (Mean 3.94, Rank 2) for their publications. It is also observed that a good numbers of respondents are motivated by Books/Journals (Mean 3.54, Rank 3). It is found that (Mean 3.48, Rank 4) of respondents are motivated by Teachers of LIS and Librarians/Library staff. It is further observed that only few respondents are motivated by Application of ICT in libraries (Mean 3.26, Rank 6). The Chi-square test is also administrated to test the hypothesis that there is significant difference in the motivation factors for the publication. The calculated value (278.851) for parameter is above than table value (3.841) .Hence the hypothesis is not significant.

6.4. MOTIVATION FACTORS FOR PUBLICATIONS AMONG LIS PROFESSIONALS

The motivation factors are analyzed among LIS professionals and the same is given in table 5. It can be found from table 5 that majority of Librarians (Mean 4.14, Rank 1), Assistant Librarians (4.20, Rank 1) and Library Assistants (Mean 4.39, Rank 1) are motivated by the Research guides for their publications. It is analyzed that (Mean 3.97, Rank 2) of Librarians and (Mean 3.90, Rank 2) of Assistant Librarians are found that Conferences/Seminars/Workshops are further motivated for their publications. The books/Journals are another important motivation factors for the Librarians (Mean 3.56, Rank 3) as well as Assistant Librarians (Mean 3.52, Rank 3). It is further found that the Library Assistants are motivated by Librarians/Library Staff (Mean 4.00, Rank 2), Conferences/Seminars/Workshops (Mean 3.82, Rank 3). A good number of Librarians (Mean 3.52, Rank 4) and Library Assistants (Mean 3.69, Rank 4) are also motivated by Teachers of LIS. The Chi-square test is also administrated to test the hypothesis that there is no significant difference in the motivation factors for the publication among LIS professionals .The calculated value (14.263) for parameter is above the table value (3.841).Hence the hypothesis is not significant.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The publications in any form will help the library professionals to update their knowledge and at the same time, this is required to get promotion in their careers. The LIS professionals are required to organize conferences, seminars and training programmes to update their knowledge and to

develop their research skills. The following are recommended based on the present study

1. LIS Teachers and Librarians are required to create more awareness about ICT among library professionals and help them to implement ICT in the libraries. The impact of ICT will help the professionals to produce more number of scholarly publications.
2. The LIS professionals should play a proactive role in promoting their publications.

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