Abstracts of Ph.D. Theses


The main purposes of this study were to provide bibliographic control of Library and Information Science (LIS) literature produced in Pakistan after 1990, analyze Pakistani LIS research from 1947 to 2008 and explore issues hampering it. A research design comprising of mix methodology (including quantitative and qualitative methods) was used to achieve the objectives. A thorough literature review was carried out to find out developments in bibliographic control, bibliometrics, LIS research, and issues of LIS research. A two-pronged strategy was adopted to achieve objectives of this study. At one hand, a database was designed and developed for collection of bibliographic details of LIS literature produced in Pakistan from 1947 to 2008. Bibliographic data were collected from 89 different sources via database and used to prepare bibliography of LIS literature produced in Pakistan during 1991-2008. These data were then transferred to Microsoft Excel for bibliometric analysis. On the other hand, interview guide was prepared and interviews of 55 LIS professionals were conducted by visiting different cities. Interview data were audio recorded and analyzed qualitatively to discover issues hindering LIS research in Pakistan.

Bibliometric analysis of LIS literature produced in Pakistan revealed that average growth of literature was 83.79 items per year. Most favorite area of research was ‘Information treatment for information services’ while little attention was given to ‘Housing technologies’ and ‘Management’. Analysis revealed that 2609 authors contributed 4934 items at an average of 1.89 items per author. Dr. Anis Khurshid emerged as most prolific LIS researcher in Pakistan with 88 contributions. Co-authorship analysis discovered that Pakistani LIS researchers preferred to work independently. Application of Lotka’s law showed that it was not valid in case of Pakistani LIS literature. Study of output formats showed that journal articles were most preferred format followed by theses.

Qualitative analysis of 55 interviews revealed that majority of Pakistani LIS researchers had obtained formal education or training for conducting research but teaching of Research Methodology course at master level was seriously flawed. Analysis showed that education or training of research and facilities for the same were not issues for LIS research in Pakistan. It disclosed that although aptitude for research was necessary but one also needed some skills and abilities to become a successful researcher. Analysis discovered that quality of research education was an issue but selection of a good topic for research was not an issue. It was found that obtaining of Pakistani LIS literature was an issue but getting international LIS literature was not considered as an issue.

Analysis discovered that bibliographic control of Pakistani LIS literature was available to some extent but it was not comprehensive.

Analysis found that lack of cooperation from people and attitude of employers were issues while no general perception was identified about attitude of colleagues. Research collaboration among LIS professionals, publication of LIS research, availability of finance for research work, shortage of research supervisors, and encouragement from seniors to young researchers were identified as issues but availability of physical facilities was not found an issue for LIS research in Pakistan. Likewise, lack of time was not established as an issue but need for time management skills was considered necessary. It was discovered that incentives and rewards for LIS researchers was not a problem but discrimination in provision of incentives and rewards was hindering LIS research.


The purpose of this study was to explore the current status and features of library software currently being used in the libraries of higher education institutions (HEIs) of Pakistan and needs of libraries so that a need-based and sustainable solution for the automation of functions of libraries might be suggested. A mixed methods approach for research was used. Therefore, descriptive survey method and focus groups were used in this regard. A review of literature was conducted to explore the development, issues and latest trends regarding library software. Instruments were developed for library survey and focus groups on the basis of literature review. Central/main libraries of all HEIs of Pakistan listed on the Higher Education Commission (HEC) website till May 31, 2010 were selected as the population for the survey. To ascertain the status of library software being used in higher education institutions of Pakistan, the survey was supplemented by three focus groups conducted at Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. A purposive selection was made in this regard consisting of experts having experience of working on library software.

The findings reveal that majority of HEIs of Pakistan had started automation in their libraries. There was no significant difference between public and private sector
institutions regarding automation of their libraries. The libraries were using different library software for automation while Library Information Management System (LIMS) was most commonly used software. Other major software were Koha, WINISIS, LMS, Inmagic and VIRTUA. A large group of libraries were using Open Source Software (OSS). Majority of the libraries did not have any budget for software and were running their automation projects without proper financial resources. The libraries had cataloguing, circulation, reports and OPAC modules in their software but modules like acquisition, serial and WebOPAC were not available in most of the library software. There was no separate budget available for training of library staff regarding library software. In most of the cases, software used by the libraries were not capable in supporting national languages and regional languages support was almost non-existent. The analysis reveals that the libraries were very satisfied with majority of the attributes of their software even though the libraries did not have many important features in their software. The results also reveal that there were only 20 percent to 50 percent features available in software used by the libraries but the respondents only demanded availability of such features in the range of 40 percent to 50 percent.

The analyses of focus groups reveal that there was scarcity of library software in the HEIs of Pakistan and the libraries were working in isolation without following any standards. Only a few libraries were using standardized library software and the level of automation was not presentable as most of the library automation was only limited to the cataloguing process. Non-availability of standard library software, regional language problems, lack of capacity, lack of awareness, and narrow vision of library professionals in Pakistan, as well as the lack of funds and vision in the top management of HEIs were the common problems in the implementation of library software in HEIs of Pakistan. The study suggests formation of a consortium of the libraries of HEIs which should develop and distribute standardized library software to the participating libraries.