

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Bibliometric Analysis of Library and Information Science Theses in the National Library of Sri Lanka

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Abstract: Bibliometric analysis is crucial to grasp scholarly communication trends, thematic changes and knowledge organization within a field. The present study aims to examine the research trends in Library and Information Science (LIS) by analyzing the post-graduate theses stored in the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL). The main objectives are to explore trends in the subject, development of themes, distribution of languages, institutional involvement and time-based patterns in LIS research production. This study differs from the previous ones which followed descriptive statistical approach, as it studies the salient research themes in Sri Lankan LIS scholarship using keyword frequency analysis, title-word analysis, sub-topic categorization and keyword co-occurrence analysis. The methodology that was followed was quantitative bibliometric. A total of 73 doctoral theses, gathered from the NLSL collection between 1985 and March 2025, were analyzed. Institutional records and Koha library management system were used to get data. Analytical tools which were used were descriptive statistics, thematic categorization, title-word analysis, keyword co-occurrence mapping and trend analysis. The results indicate that English is the main language of research – almost four fifths of the theses are in English and Sinhala comes after that with a small share, while Tamil is not used in the theses at all. Thematic analysis reveals that the traditional LIS areas of university libraries, library services and collection management have been well represented, while emerging areas like digital libraries, research data management, artificial intelligence applications, information systems and knowledge management are poorly represented. The results of the analysis of the co-occurrence of keywords show that there is a strong thematic relationship between the conventional library service themes and the integration of technological themes and interdisciplinary themes is not high. It is concluded that, the research in LIS in Sri Lanka has not been evenly developed thematically, hasn't diversified much and doesn't pay enough attention to new research directions in the global arena. The research has added value to LIS field by offering a national level thematic bibliographical mapping of the LIS theses and the identification of the main research gaps from which the future academic and policy directions will arise.

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INTRODUCTION

It has become increasingly important to assess scholarly output when it comes to understanding disciplinary developments. Bibliometrics is a quantitative research method which studies scientific papers and analyzes publication behavior and scientific research trends and overall scientific communication. The findings of such research can be helpful in assessing the development of research in a specific field and identify the problems of scholarly communication. As far as Library and Information Science (LIS) is concerned, bibliometrics has been a boon to them which can provide a clear picture of the state of the scholarly world. In Sri Lanka, the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) holds the theses and dissertations done by the researchers in the various higher educational institutions of the country. This collection therefore provides a good snapshot of the research activity of different areas including

LIS. In the past few decades, LIS has grown significantly due to the new technologies and ever-increasing information needs. Therefore, the analysis of the research conducted in this field becomes interesting in order to identify the problems and achievements of the research in this field.

Although there is a lot of data on LIS in the form of theses stored at the NLSL, no comprehensive study of LIS research trends has been performed so far. Most of the existing research papers deal either with a particular institution or one specific aspect of LIS. The aim of this study is to make a bridge of the above and to provide a general bibliometric analysis of all the theses on LIS stored at the NLSL.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are quite a lot of bibliometric studies in the sphere of Library and Information Science that are aimed at evaluating various aspects of research carried out in this discipline. In previous investigations, a lot of emphasis was placed on citation analysis, assumed to be an indicator of the value of research. Then, other parameters

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were taken into account including research subjects, scientist research productivity etc.

There have been several attempts conducted in bibliometric studies in LIS in Sri Lanka. On a broader regional level Jeyaraj (2012) mapped the output of LIS research in the Asian countries and observed that there is unequal productivity in different countries; this reflects differences in research development and in the contribution of scholarship in the region. Bibliometric studies have been crucial in comprehending the trends of LIS research in the Sri Lankan context. This aligns with the results of the study by Jabeen et al. (2015) which revealed that the bibliometric methods are well adopted for measuring research productivity and scholarly output in the LIS field.

A pioneering bibliometric survey of Sri Lankan LIS literature by Gunasekera (2008) found that the study field was still in its infancy with lesser diversity in the research topics and fewer publications. Gunasekera (2026) later revised this analysis and noted that although the volume of LIS research in Sri Lanka has increased both in volume and thematic scope, some facets of this research are still under-researched, suggesting that there are still imbalances in the research focus and development. Post-graduate and dissertation research have been the focus of attention. The bibliometric study by Angammana and Jayatissa (2016) of the postgraduate LIS theses of the University of Kelaniya and the University of Colombo revealed a heavy dependence on the journal articles as the most important sources of information. They suggested the need to improve the engagement of students with more wide-ranging academic resources.

A similar study on M.Phil dissertation in LIS field at the University of Calcutta revealed different patterns of research themes and the need for a bibliometric analysis at the dissertation level to gain insight into the academic trends and institutional contributions (Nishat et al., 2019). Furthermore, Sajeewani and Desariya (2023) observed as part of their bibliometric study on postgraduate thesis collections, the continuity of the research topics used in classical research and no diversification towards new directions. Their study reveals that post-graduate LIS research is primarily representative of existing academic areas and does not pave the way towards new or interdisciplinary avenues. As a general rule, literature evidence indicates that bibliometric studies of research productivity in LIS regularly reveal unequal research productivity, concentration on traditional research fields and regional/institutional inequalities in research

activities. While global and regional studies are very useful, there have been very few examples of studies in Sri Lanka that have covered a range of institutions or selected groups of theses and research products. The number of published works has been growing, but there is lack of bibliometric analysis at the national level of LIS theses in Sri Lanka. Previous studies have examined a limited number of postgraduate students, a single institution or a journal literature.

It is therefore still apparent that a more systematic and methodical research study on the “bibliometric research” aspect of the theses involving LIS can be done on a larger scale covering trends of research, thematic changes and institutional contribution in Sri Lanka.

Also, there is no study done on national level that could analyse the title-word frequency, thematic clusters, sub-topic relations, or keyword networks of the title of the LIS theses in the National Library of Sri Lanka. Current research topics like digital transformation, artificial intelligence, research data management, institutional repositories and knowledge organization systems are not sufficiently covered in previous research.

Thus, the present study fills an important gap in the literature by combining the descriptive bibliometric method with the thematic and keyword co-occurrence methodology which gives a holistic picture of the LIS research development in the country of Sri Lanka.

Research Problem

Although there is a vast collection of Theses in the National Library of Sri Lanka, there has been little systematic study of thematic research trends in this collection. Studies so far conducted are mostly descriptive statistical and lack knowledge about the intellectual structure, theme relations and new lines of research in Sri Lankan LIS scholarship.

Thesis collection review indicates that there is not a strong thematic concentration, proper topic coverage and absence of strong interest in the recent global trends related to LIS. Moreover, there is a lack of awareness of both mature and less-explored areas in the national landscape of LIS research.

Comprehensive thematic and bibliometric mapping is important because researchers, educators, and policymakers struggle to properly identify research priorities, curriculum

development needs, and future research directions without such mapping. Thus, a detailed bibliometric and thematic analysis is required to gain insightful knowledge regarding the research trends in LIS in Sri Lanka.

Objectives of the Study

The study aimed to conduct a bibliometric analysis of Library and Information Science theses available in the National Library of Sri Lanka in order to identify thematic development, research trends, subject coverage, language distribution, institutional contribution, and publication productivity. Accordingly the followings are the specific objectives of this study:

1. To identify the major research themes and subject areas in LIS theses.
2. To determine highly researched and under-researched areas in LIS.
3. To analyze the language distribution of LIS theses.
4. To examine annual trends in thesis production.
5. To identify institutional contributions to LIS research in Sri Lanka.
6. To conduct title-word and keyword frequency analysis of LIS theses
7. To examine keyword co-occurrence patterns and thematic relationships among research topics

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a quantitative bibliometric design to systematically evaluate publication statistics and identify evolving research trends within Library and Information Science (LIS) theses in Sri Lanka. Data were sourced from the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) thesis repository and the Koha Library Management System, spanning a 40-year period from 1985 to March 2025.

An initial pool of 696 thesis records was subjected to a rigorous, multi-stage screening process consisting of identification, keyword filtering, and structural relevance assessments of titles, abstracts, and metadata. Based on predefined inclusion criteria (direct relevance to LIS topics and complete bibliographic details) and exclusion criteria (duplicate entries, incomplete records, or tangential references), the sample was narrowed down to a final dataset of 73 LIS theses, representing 10.49% of the original repository yield.

Bibliometric indicators and variables extracted from the final sample included the year of submission, language, awarding institution, degree type, title words, and content area descriptors. The analysis combined descriptive statistics with advanced bibliometric techniques, specifically title and subject categorization across nine core LIS sub-topics to uncover prominent research themes. To map conceptual relationships, a keyword co-occurrence analysis was executed by first unifying synonymous terms across titles, abstracts, and author-assigned keywords.

Given the compact sample size ($n = 73$), frequency-based co-occurrence matrices and descriptive mapping techniques were utilized via spreadsheet software rather than automated bibliometric software. Ultimately, thematic mapping was applied to classify these research streams into well-developed, emerging, declining, or underexplored areas, with the final trends synthesized through frequency counts, percentages, and tabular summaries.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Language Distribution

From the obtained results, it can be observed that English is the leading language in LIS theses (Table 1). The creation of many works in English, and few in Sinhala. There are no Tamil theses.

Table 1: Language Distribution of Theses

Language	N	Percentage
English	58	79.45%
Sinhala	15	20.55%
Tamil	0	0%

The numbers of English language LIS theses and Sinhala language LIS theses were 58 (79.45%) and 15 (20.55%) respectively, out of the 73 theses analyzed. There was no writer of theses in Tamil (0%). This is a high degree of English predominance in LIS scholarly communication.

Subject Distribution and Research Trends

The Peculiarities of Distribution of Subject and Trends of Scientific Research. Analysis of subjects distributed reveals that traditional subjects are targeted in the field (Table 2). The

most typical areas of theses that are studied include university libraries, library services, national libraries, and collection management.

Table 2: Major Subject Areas

Subject Area	N
University Libraries	17
Library Services	11
National Library	10
Collection Management	10
Public Libraries	9

The university libraries had the greatest number of theses, 17 (23.29%), followed by library services, 11 (15.07%). The number of theses in each of the different types of libraries was distributed as follows: public libraries had 9 theses (12.33%), national libraries had 10 (13.70%) and others comprised 25 (30.2%). The total LIS theses are concentrated in traditional library areas, the number of which makes up 82.19% of the total. Total output is also significantly underrepresented for emerging areas like digital libraries and automation, and library marketing, which together account for less than 5% of all output.

Meanwhile, a variety of contemporary and specific topics were scarcely addressed. Minimal attention focus to disaster management, marketing of library services, classification and digital libraries. There was underrepresentation of these fields: Several themes were discussed in only one work each. As one may see, researchers prefer studying the subjects that have been widely researched previously. There can be several reasons; first, there has to be sufficient sources available for students to write about these topics and get relevant information; second, there has to be a supervisor who can guide the students on these directions. There are some issues that one should explore in spite of these preferences.

Temporal Trends in Research Output

The distribution of theses by time shows a considerable change in annual production throughout four decades (Table 3). The duration of 2001-2010 proved to be the most productive period, with nearly half of the total number of jobs. Before the peak, the trend has a consistent increase.

The years 2001-10 were the most productive for LIS research, accounting for almost half of the total.

There are several explanations to this phenomenon. The first step is to talk about reducing enrollments in LIS studies. In addition, funding constraints, institutional issues, and shifting academic priorities could have a negative impact on productivity.

Table 3: Time Distribution

Period	N	%
1985–1990	8	10.96%
1991–2000	13	17.81%
2001–2010	36	49.32%
2011–2020	15	20.55%
2021–2024	1	1.37%

Institutional Contribution

When analyzing the distribution by institutions, one will find out that the largest part of these was produced by two universities – the University of Colombo and the University of Kelaniya (Table 4). Other universities create much less employment opportunities and a fraction of the theses come from other countries.

Table 4: Institutional Contribution

Institution	Number	%
University of Colombo	34	46.58%
University of Kelaniya	21	28.77%
Others	18	24.66%

The University of Colombo had the highest number of theses (34, 46.58%) followed by University of Kelaniya (21, 28.77%). The other institutions made 18 theses (24.66%). The institutional concentration was captured with a total of 75.35% research output being done by these two main universities. Obviously, there are significant differences among these three sets of universities: the contributions from each group are distinctly different. It proves that there is a considerable disparity between institutions in this aspect, as well. The diversity of institutions producing research works will be better if they are encouraged in order to promote equality.

Degree-wise Distribution of Theses

It will be evident from the result displayed above that the academic degree most common to research products of LIS is Master's of Library and Information Science (MLS). Indeed, the great majority of theses studied were written within the framework of this program (Table 5).

The other degree programs (e.g., MA, MSSC, PhD) seem to be less likely to award theses than the MLS program. What has to be pointed out here is the fact that few doctoral theses have been prepared in the field of LIS. MLS accounted for 42 theses (57.53%), followed by MSSC (12.33%), MA (10.96%), and PhD (6.85%). This indicates that the research in the field of LIS is mainly at the master's level. Such a distribution implies that even though postgraduate education is dynamic, there is a need to enhance research at a higher level. Supporting Ph.D. degree programs will help to improve LIS scholarship programs.

Table 5: Degree Distribution

Degree	Number	%
MLS	42	57.53%
MSSC	9	12.33%
MA	8	10.96%
PhD	5	6.85%

Title Analysis

Table 6 shows that the most common terms in the titles were library services, university libraries, information needs, and collection management, each occurring 14 times, 12 times, 8 times, and 7 times, respectively, representing 19.18%, 16.44%, 10.96% and 9.59% of the total, respectively. The results suggest a high focus on operational and service aspects of librarianship. Technology-oriented phrases like "digital libraries" (2 occurrences; 2.74%), "information

technology" (3 occurrences; 4.11%) or "knowledge management" (1 occurrence; 1.37%) were used less often, indicating less involvement with new research areas related to digital technologies and interdisciplinary research.

Other concepts, such as "digital libraries", "knowledge management" or "information systems", are only superficially mentioned in the context of digital transformation and emerging technologies. This indicates that LIS research still mainly has traditional and limited innovative and interdisciplinary research directions.

Sub-topic Analysis

The sub-topic analysis offers a better understanding of thematic concentration in the LIS research. Analysis of the thesis collection shows that traditional research fields like university libraries, library services and collection management are predominant. These can thus be regarded as considered research fields in LIS scholarship that have become well established and developed in Sri Lanka.

But there are a few areas of the modern era which are still relatively untouched. Digital librarianship, metadata management, automation, and marketing are other subjects that have only a few studies in their representation. The results show that research in LIS in Sri Lanka has not yet caught up properly with the developments in the world in the field of digital information environment and technological innovation.

Quantitatively, the university libraries comprised 17 theses (23.29%), library services 11

Table 6: Frequently Occurring Terms in Thesis Titles

Title Term	N	%	Interpretation
Library Services	14	19.18	Strong focus on operational library functions
University Libraries	12	16.44	Dominant institutional research area
Information Needs	8	10.96	User-centered studies are common
Collection Management	7	9.59	Traditional management themes are emphasized
Information Technology	3	4.11	Emerging but weakly represented
Digital Libraries	2	2.74	Underexplored technological area
Knowledge Management	1	1.37	Minimal research attention

theses (15.07%) and 10 theses (13.70%) in the field of collection management. Digital libraries, in comparison, only came in at 2.74% (2 theses); followed by automation at 1.37% (1 thesis); and then, studies of metadata and library marketing at 1.37% (1 thesis) each. The numbers again show the significant thematic disparity in the LIS research in Sri Lanka.

Keyword Co-occurrence Analysis

Based on the keyword co-occurrence analysis, the relationships among the traditional concepts of LIS (library services, university libraries, users and collection development) are shown to be strong. These words often occur in compound forms and make up the main thematic group of words in the data set.

Themes of other concepts, like digital libraries, information systems, knowledge

management, automation and electronic resources, however, demonstrate very limited connectivity with other themes. It implies that information technologies and digital transformation have yet to be the focus of LIS research in Sri Lanka.

The list of major key-word co-occurent clusters is provided in Table 8. These results also reveal that information literacy and information-seeking behavior, as areas of user-centered research, are slowly gaining attention but need more research in the scholarly community.

Thematic Mapping

The thematic analysis resulted in the four thematic categories in the thesis collection (Table 9). Thematic mapping analysis shows that

Table 7: Distribution of LIS Research Sub-topics

Major Subject Area	Sub-topic	Number of Theses	Status
Academic Libraries	University Libraries	17	Highly represented
Library Operations	Library Services	11	Highly represented
Resource Management	Collection Development	10	Highly represented
Public Library Studies	Public Libraries	9	Moderately represented
User Studies	Information Needs	6	Moderately represented
Information Literacy	User Education	5	Moderately represented
Digital Librarianship	Digital Libraries	2	Underexplored
Information Systems	Library Automation	1	Underexplored
Knowledge Organization	Metadata Studies	1	Underexplored
Management Studies	Library Marketing	1	Underexplored

Table 8: Major Keyword Co-occurent Clusters

Keyword Cluster	Frequently Associated Keywords	Interpretation
Library Services Cluster	Users, University Libraries, Information Needs	Strong traditional service-oriented research focus
Collection Management Cluster	Resources, Preservation, Access	Emphasis on resource organization
Digital Information Cluster	Digital Libraries, Automation, ICT	Weakly developed emerging area
User Education Cluster	Information Literacy, Information Seeking	Developing user-centered research
Management Cluster	Marketing, Administration	Limited managerial research

there is a great variation in the maturity and development of the research themes of LIS in Sri Lanka. University libraries, library services, and user studies are two themes that have a high research frequency and strong thematic development, and are identified as core themes. The above themes constitute the intellectual focus of LIS research in the national framework.

Themes of collection management and public library studies seem to be basic and indispensable aspects of the discipline which still need diversification and modernization. On the other hand, the theme of digital libraries, knowledge management and automation are present, but not well developed, even though their relevance is increasing in other countries around the world.

The analysis also shows that niche areas like metadata research and library marketing are not given much scholarly focus. This imbalance points towards the need of broadening the research focus to technologically advanced and interdisciplinary research areas to build the future direction of the LIS scholarship in Sri Lanka.

DISCUSSION

The results of this study give valuable information about the intellectual structure and

thematic development of Library and Information Science (LIS) research in Sri Lanka. The addition of title analysis, sub-topic categorization, keyword co-occurrence analysis, and thematic mapping facilitates a wider overview of research patterns and scholarly trends across the discipline, as compared to earlier descriptive analyses.

One of the most important results obtained is that the research is very focused in traditional LIS areas. Research in public library studies, collection management, library services, and the university library remains the most prominent. Themes are the main research clusters that emerged from the keyword co-occurrence analysis and thematic mapping. The high incidence rate shows that Sri Lankan LIS research is still firmly rooted in the normal library activities and service-oriented activities.

The analysis also shows that there is a lot of thematic imbalance at the same time. New fields, like digital libraries, knowledge management, metadata researches, information systems and library automation, are poorly represented. The results of the keyword co-occurrence analysis indicate that technological and innovation-related research is not yet fully integrated into the national LIS research agenda, as these themes are scarcely present and the connections with each

Table 9: Thematic Classification of LIS Research Areas

Theme Category	Research Areas	Level of Development
Core Themes	University Libraries, Library Services, User Studies	Highly developed
Basic Themes	Collection Management, Public Libraries	Moderately developed
Emerging Themes	Digital Libraries, Knowledge Management	Weakly developed
Specialized Themes	Metadata, Automation, Library Marketing	Very limited
Declining Themes	Traditional administrative studies	Low recent growth

Table 10: Conceptual Thematic Map of LIS Research Areas in Sri Lanka

Highly Developed Themes	Research Areas
University Libraries	Digital Libraries
Library Services	Knowledge Management
User Studies	Library Automation
Collection Management	Metadata Studies
Public Libraries	Library Marketing

other are weak. The thematic mapping also shows that many technology related themes are underdeveloped, or even stand alone, while traditional service-oriented studies are very well-developed “motor themes.”

A second significant comment on diversification of research topic is also made, this one pointing to the narrow range of topics. Interdisciplinary themes that combine artificial intelligence, research data management, digital preservation and semantic technologies hardly exist in the thesis collection, although they are present in a few user studies and information literacy research works. This highlights a huge disparity between the current research trends in LIS and the current developments in the field of LIS in the world.

The distribution of the theses by language also reveals significant issues of inclusiveness and accessibility. English is the main language for academic communication, but Sinhala representation is lagging behind and Tamil-language research is completely lacking. This imbalance could limit wider knowledge production and limit access to knowledge in multilingual communities in Sri Lanka.

The analysis by the chronological method shows that the productivity of LIS research peaked in the early 2000s, but has significantly reduced since 2010. The bibliometric data showed a drop in thesis production following 2010, but this was not examined in the present study. The information provided, therefore, can provide no causal explanation. To investigate the factors affecting the productivity of LIS research in Sri Lanka, further study either by survey and/or interviews/institutional analyses would be required.

Likewise, the themes identified in the thesis collection that are related to technology (information systems, knowledge management, digital libraries, and automation) are not seen very often, and this bibliometric analysis does not make it possible to establish any reasons for their limited presence. The results merely suggest that the topics are a relatively small share of the total research production over the observation period.

The institutional analysis also reveals that there is an unequal participation in research by universities. The University of Colombo contributed 46.58% of the total number of theses, followed by the University of Kelaniya with 28.77% of theses. These institutions together had 75.35% of the total LIS research output. The results show a clear focus on research production

in certain institutions. The present study, however, did not examine the underlying factors of this distribution. Further study is needed to determine the impact of institutional features, research capability and academic programs on LIS research productivity. The training of LIS teachers from other universities and building the capacity of research would help to balance out the national research environment.

Overall, the results indicated that the research conducted under LIS in Sri Lanka has strengths and also considerable weaknesses. Although there are well developed themes in the library, there are considerable research gaps in the digital, technological and interdisciplinary. In this regard, future research policies and academic programs should promote innovation, thematic diversification, multilingualism and increased embedding of emerging information technologies into LIS scholarship.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of bibliometric analysis of the theses on LIS-related topics deposited in the National library of Sri Lanka are presented in this paper. Overall, it would be possible to make some conclusions regarding the evolution of the research landscape in the field of LIS and what structural characteristics are found in the scholarly production.

First, it is clear that LIS research in Sri Lanka is highly focused and has a narrow range of research activities. These range from library services to the management of collections, through to university libraries. The latter are of course significant areas of research to be explored, however, the fact that relatively small amounts of research have been conducted in emerging areas (digital libraries, information technology applications in LIS, knowledge management, library marketing, etc.) indicates that LIS research has not kept pace with modern developments in the information environment.

On the other side, linguistic imbalance in research activity is observed in the number of English theses. Use of English is widespread in the international scholarly communication and is a common practice in the academic world.

However, the marginalization of Sinhalese language and the lack of any writing in Tamils pose problems for integration of multilingual researchers into the scholarly community as well as equal opportunities to participate in research activities of LIS.

The third interesting observation is that thesis production has decreased since 2010. The bibliometric data clearly indicate a decrease in research production in the last few years of the study period, but the reasons for this decrease were not studied in the present research. Thus, from the available evidence there are no causal explanations to be drawn. Surveys, interviews or institutional analyses could be used to gain deeper insight into the factors which influence LIS research productivity in Sri Lanka in the future.

Furthermore, there is a high level of concentration of research activity in a few universities (mainly University of Colombo and University of Kelaniya), which indicates that there is a significant variation in the research capacities, availability of academic programs and resources among the universities. This trend also reduces the diversity of views and the possibilities of academic participation in LIS research. The sub-topic analysis, keyword co-occurrence analysis, and thematic mapping greatly enhanced the bibliometric aspect of the study as it identified the intellectual structure, thematic connections, and research gaps in the scholarship of LIS in Sri Lanka. The analytical methods provide a better picture of the development and future trajectory of LIS in the country.

Based on the identified trends, a few recommendations can be made to enhance the research in LIS in Sri Lanka. However, digital libraries are little represented (2 theses, 2.74%) and automation is even less represented (1 thesis, 1.37%) and these could be considered focus areas for future research. However, there is a clear call for stimulating research on underrepresented topics such as digital transformation aspects, information systems aspects, and services from the user's perspective.

Academic institutions must respond to the changes in the world and new technologies by adapting their curricula and research agenda.

The publication of multilingual LIS research can be fostered to enhance inclusiveness, as there are no Tamil-language theses. There is a need to encourage research in several languages as a special consideration. The inclusion of Sinhala and Tamil language in academic writings along with English would help to get inclusivity and ensure that the results of scientific activities are made available to a wider audience. This could be done by adopting certain policies and incentives.

Furthermore, there is a need to further enhance research capability beyond the present limit and to enhance the number of universities in LIS academic program. It would make a contribution to the diversity of research work and stimulate dynamics in research in the field.

As 75.35% of the output of the LIS is provided by 2 universities, expansion of research capacity of LIS in other institutions is suggested. There is a need to give greater attention to promoting cooperation among researchers and institutions. A national LIS research network would help to improve knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary research and interdisciplinary research.

In Sri Lanka, further research could be carried out to explore how funding possibilities, research infrastructure, digital resources and institutional support influence research development in LIS. The present bibliometric analysis did not analyse these factors.

In summary, although LIS research in Sri Lanka has already achieved a lot, significant improvements can be made with regards to diversity, inclusiveness and sustainability. Achieving these aims will need to be done systematically, with the cooperation of all parties

This analysis could be expanded in future by adding citation and impact factor data information on the research. Comparative research with other countries would also be beneficial.

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