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Full Length Research

The Electronic Library Journal: A bibliometric study (2010 to 2014)

[1]Yasinullah Shafiullah, [2]Prof. Vaishali Khaparde and [3]Fawaz Abdullah Alhamdi

[1]Ph.D. Research Student, Dept .of Library & Information Science, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. (MS), India. Email: ysadat1@gmail.com
[2]Professor and Head, Dept .of Library & Information Science, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada, University, Aurangabad. (MS), India. Email: khapardeVaishali@gmail.com
[3]Ph.D. Research Student, Dept .of Library & Information Science, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. (MS), India. Email: fawazalhamdilibrarian@gmail.com

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The present paper deals with a bibliometric study of five volumes which contained 30 issues and a total number of 259 articles appending 7,397 citations published during the year 2010 to 2014 in the "Electronic Library Journal". The bibliographic details with regard to each article such as types of articles, number of articles in each issue, number of citations in each article, authorship patterns, publication date and the name of the journals were collected and taken into consideration for studying and analyzing. Findings showed that the highest numbers of articles (57) were published in the year 2010 and the articles published in 2014 contain the highest number of citations (1,807), around 78 percent of contributions were categorized as research studies followed by case study. The average length of articles published in The Electronic Library is 15.5 pages per article. the majority of authors cited journals (4,516 citations; 61.1%) followed by web resources (1,170 citations; 15.8%). Also the single authors (43.883 percent) have made major contribution followed by joint authors (26.895 percent), and "The Electronic Library" which is the source journal leads the table with a record number of 409 citation with 9.063 % followed Library Hi Tech (119 citations).

Key words: Bibliometrics, Citation Analysis; Electronic Library Journal.

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INTRODUCTION

Bibliometrics is an important area of research in the library and information science. The word "Bibliometrics" has been derived from two Greek words "Biblio" means books and "metric" means measure which refers to the application of mathematics to the study of bibliography. Pritchard (1962), defined Bibliometrics as the application of mathematical and statistical methods to the whole scientific literature. Similarly, Roy (1983) stated that Bibliometrics is the study of the process of information use by analyzing the characteristics of literatures and their distribution by mathematical methods.

During the last decade Bibliometrics gained magnificent growth due to its important role in the library and information science field. As it plays crucial role in the area of research evaluation, scientific research assessment and publication rankings (Mattson, 2008). Furthermore, bibliometrics can be a standard for weeding and collection development in a library. As stated by

Thanuskodi (2010), that bibliometrics analysis serves as a useful tool in evaluation the quality of a journal and it contents. Bibliometrics studies is mainly applied to scientific researches and deal with various metadata elements such as author, year of publication, title, publication, subject, place of publication and other core elements of metadata. This kind of study yield helpful indication of scientific productivity, trends, researcher performance for publication, and journal ranking (Jacobs, 2001).

The current study is the bibliometric analysis of a high ranked international journal "The Electronic Library" published by Emerald renowned publisher. The Electronic Library established in 1983 publishes bi-monthly, by year 2014 The Electronic Library had successfully published 32 volumes with some 8 or 9 articles per issue. In this study we will analyze articles published during the period of 2010 and 2014.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Alhamdi, Khaparde & Kanekar, 2014) They attempted on a bibliometric analysis of ten volumes (57-66) in the field of journal of Documentation. It is based on the references appended to International Journal of "Journal of Documentation" during 2001-2010. The present study is based on 15150 references appended to 364 articles contributed by the authors in Journal of Documentation. It was found that Journals Citations are more in number than other citations. Also it was found that Solo Researchers are Predominant than Collaborative Researchers. The extent of collaboration was not much popular among the Journal of Documentation. The mean relative growth for articles and citation in the first five years 2001 to 2005 is reduced according to the last five years 2006 to 2010.The value of group co-efficient (g_p) was only 0.46. It was seen that researchers cited latest documents. Out of 364 articles there are 175 articles have pages length from 11 to 20.

(Alhamdi, Khaparde & Shesharao, 2014) They conducted a Scientometric analysis of 56 papers published in the Library and Information science & Technical Abstract (LISTA) on internet use in the subject of library &Information science during the period 2004 - 2013. The study focused on various aspects: such as document types, growth Rate (GR) and doubling time (DT) of publications and citations, year-wise, authorship pattern, institutions involved, most prolific authors of the journal. The study revealed that most of the papers (71.4%) of papers were contributed by multiple authors. USA is the top producing country with 8 (14.3%) publications of the total output. All the articles were published in English language. The mean doubling time for the first five years (i.e. 2004 to 2008) is only (1.05) which is increased to (6.07) during the last five years (2009 to 2013). Maximum 35 (62.5%) out of 56 of the authors are not mentioned their email address in the paper.

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OBJECTIVES

This study aims to comprehend the patterns of publication of "The Electronic Library" published during 2010 to 2014 with the following objectives:

- To identify the number of articles published per volume in each specific year;
- To study authorship patterns;
- To examine the year wise citation;
- To find out the length and type of articles published during specified period;
- To find out the journals that have been mostly cited by authors;
- To identify different type of information resources cited by the authors.

METHODOLOGY

For this study data collected from the "The Electronic Library Journal". Each Five volumes which contained 30 issues and a total number of 259 articles appending 7,397 citations published during the year 2010 to 2014 has been taken up for the analysis. The bibliographic details with regard to each article such as types of articles, number of articles in each issue, number of citations in each article, authorship patterns, publication date and the name of the journals were collected and taken into consideration for studying and analyzing. In order to achieve precise result of journals' ranking, full citations of each article was entered into MS Office Excel.

Table 1: Year Wise Distribution of Articles

Year	No. of Volume	No. of Articles	Average no. of articles per issue	No. of Citation	No. of Citation per Article
2010	28	57	9.50	1,321	23.18
2011	29	51	8.50	1,267	24.84
2012	30	50	8.33	1,621	32.42
2013	31	49	8.17	1,381	28.18
2014	32	52	8.67	1,807	34.75
Total	**5**	**259**	**8.63**	**7,397**	**28.56**

Table 2: Types of Contributions

Volume	Research Paper	Case Study	General Review	Technical Paper	Literature Review	Viewpoint	Conceptual Paper	Total
2010	42	8	2	2	1	1	1	57
2011	32	8	1	2	2	4	2	51
2012	38	4	3	2	2	0	1	50
2013	42	6	0	0	0	0	0	49
2014	47	5	0	0	0	0	0	52
Total	201	31	7	6	5	5	4	259

Moreover, the type of publication and the authorship patterns were done manual and double checked for yielding the most accurate result of this study.

Data Interpretation:

After examining the data, the authors have presented the result under various headings. The detailed results of the analysis of The Electronic Library during period 2010 to 2014 are depicted as below:

Year wise distribution of articles:

Table 1, shows the year wise distribution of articles published during period 2010 to 2014 in 5 volumes in The Electronic Library. It has been noticed that the highest number of articles (57) were published in the year 2010 and the lowest number of articles (49) were published in the year 2013. The articles published in 2014 contain the highest number of citations (1,807), whereas the lowest number of citations (1,267) was recorded in the year 2011.

The earlier study of bibliometrics analysis for the same journal “The Electronic Library” from 2003-2009 by Jena et al. (2012), reported (310) articles published from 2005-2009 which are more (51) from the current study (259). Which means that the number of the articles published from 2010-2014 are slightly decreased compare to number of the articles published from 2005-2009. However, the number of citations recorded from 2005-2009 by Jena et al. (2012) were 6,050 which are fewer (1,347) from the current study (7,397).

Types of Contributions

From Table 2 it observed that articles published in “The Electronic Library Journal” were under several categories named: research papers, case study, general review, conceptual paper, technical paper, view point and literature review. It has been noticed that, around 78 percent were research studies followed by (31) case studies. These results were corroborating the findings of earlier studies which founded that research study occupied the top position among the types of contributions (Jena et al, 2012; Swain and Rautaray, 2013).

Length of Articles

From Table 3 it revealed that the average length of

Table 3: Length of Articles

Article Type	Number of Pages Per Year				
	2010	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**
Research Paper	610	505	632	648	809
General Review	42	15	40	19	0
Case Study	105	106	66	79	62
Literature Review	15	36	36	0	0
Technical Paper	29	35	17	0	0
Conceptual Paper	11	35	13	0	0
Viewpoint	6	44	0	0	0
Total	818	776	804	746	871

Table 4: Bibliographical forms of documents

Year	Journal	Web	Books	Conference	Report	Seminars	Thesis	Other	Total
2010	723	169	151	95	113	24	19	27	1,321
2011	697	214	140	101	64	15	6	30	1,267
2012	1,035	228	112	139	52	23	10	22	1,621
2013	883	241	91	85	46	4	17	14	1,381
2014	1,178	318	118	71	54	2	14	52	1,807
Total	**4,516**	**1,170**	**612**	**491**	**329**	**68**	**66**	**145**	**7,397**

articles published in The Electronic Library is 15.5 pages per article.

Bibliographical forms of documents

Table 4 depicts the types of information resources and the year wise distribution of citations respectively. It has been revealed that majority of authors cited journals (4,516 citations; 61.1%) followed by web resources (1,170 citations; 15.8%), books (612 citations; 8.3%), conference proceeding (491 citations; 6.6%); reports (329 citations; 4.4%); seminars (68 citations; 0.92%), Theses (66 citations; 0.89%)

These results corroborate the earlier findings by Jena et al. (2012), who reported, in their bibliometric analysis study of "The Electronic Library" between 2003-2009, the most citation (49.033%) were from journals followed by books we resources (19%) and book (15.97%). Khaparde (2011), in her study of "bibliometric study of Electronic journal of Academic and Special Librarianship" also reached to the same results that Journals gained highest (33.88%) citations.

Authorship Pattern of Citations

Tables 5 and 6 depict that distribution of citations according to number of authors per each volume. Table No. 6 depicts the distribution of authors during the stated period, which reveals that single authors (43.883 percent) have made major contribution followed by joint authors (26.895 percent) and three authors (13.249 percent). Numerous bibliometrics studies reported that single authors followed by joint author have made high position in citations (Khaparde, 2011; Jena et al. 2012; Tella & Olabooye, 2013; Singh et al, 2007; Swain et al, 2013).

The degree of collaboration in the "The Electronic Library" can be calculated by using Subramanyam's (1983) formula as:

DC = NM / (NM + NS)

Where:

DC = Degree of collaboration.

NM = Number of multiple authored papers.

NS = Single authored papers.

Here:

DC = 3,637 / (3,637 + 3,246) = 0.528

As DC value is more than 0.5, it is evident that multiple

Table 5: Authorship Pattern of Citations Per Year

Author	Citations Per Year					Total
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Single Author	658	544	662	595	787	3,246
Joint Authors	333	332	441	383	493	1,982
Three Authors	141	172	249	174	244	980
Four Authors	50	76	102	74	103	405
Five Authors	14	26	41	22	21	124
Six Authors	8	16	24	12	18	78
Seven Authors	4	7	6	9	4	30
Eight Authors	3	2	4	1	4	14
More Than Eight Authors	1	6	8	3	6	24
Associations/Organizations/ Un-specified Authors	111	85	83	101	134	514
Grand Total	1,323	1,266	1,624	1,376	1,821	7,397

Table 6: Authorship Pattern of Citations

Author	No. of Authors	Cumulative No. of Citations	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Single Author	3,246	3,246	43.883%	43.883%
Joint Authors	1,982	5,228	26.795%	70.677%
Three Authors	980	6,208	13.249%	83.926%
Four Authors	405	6,613	5.475%	89.401%
Five Authors	124	6,737	1.676%	91.077%
Six Authors	78	6,815	1.054%	92.132%
Seven Authors	30	6,845	0.406%	92.538%
Eight Authors	14	6,859	0.189%	92.727%
More Than Eight Authors	24	6,883	0.324%	93.051%
Associations/Organizations/ Un-specified Authors	514	7,397	6.949%	100%

authored articles occupy the prominent position indicating the supremacy of solo research in the “The Electronic Library”.

Year wise Authorship Patterns

Table 7 reveals that year 2005 to 2008 evidenced highest (5,104) number of authors. Followed by year 2009 to 2012 which contained (3,379) authors. While the lowest (3) number of authors was from year 1800 to 1900.

Journal Ranking

Table 8 reveals that the total number of 1,258 journals has been cited for a cumulative number of 4,516 times. Table 3 shows that “*The Electronic Library*” which is the source journal leads the table with a record number of 409 citation with 9.063 % followed *Library Hi Tech* (119 citations), *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* (96 citations), *College and Research Libraries* (81 citations) and *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* (72 citations). Jena et al. (2012),

Table 7: Year wise Authorship Patterns

Year	Years					Total
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
1800-1900	0	0	2		1	3
1901-1950	1	6	5	2	1	15
1951-1980	9	22	35	24	34	124
1981-1990	52	63	79	36	53	283
1991-2000	406	330	423	238	280	1,677
2001-2004	570	543	732	427	531	2,803
2005-2008	977	1,045	1,094	909	1,079	5,104
2009-2012	99	371	826	822	1,261	3,379
2013-2015	0	0	0	4	22	26

Table 8: Journal Ranking

Sr. No	Rank	Name of Journal	SNIP	No. of Citations	Cumulative Citations	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1	1	*The Electronic Library*	1.040	409	409	9.063%	9.063%
2	2	*Library Hi Tech*	1.108	119	528	2.637%	11.700%
3	3	*Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*	2.148	96	624	2.127%	13.827%
4	4	*College and Research Libraries*	2.868	81	705	1.795%	15.622%
5	5	*The Journal of Academic Librarianship*	1.646	72	777	1.595%	17.217%
6	6	*Program: Electronic Library and Information Systems*	0.846	57	834	1.263%	18.480%
7	7	*Library Review*	0.959	56	890	1.241%	19.721%
8	8	*Online Information Review*	1.062	55	945	1.219%	20.940%
9	9	*D-Lib Magazine*	1.392	53	998	1.174%	22.114%
10	10	*Computers and Education*	3.292	49	1047	1.086%	23.200%
11	11	*Journal of Documentation*	1.467	46	1093	1.019%	24.219%
12	12	*Library Management*	1.140	45	1138	0.997%	25.216%
13	12	*New Library World*	0.807	45	1183	0.997%	26.213%
14	12	*Library Journal*	2.226	45	1228	0.997%	27.210%
15	12	*Journal of Academic Librarianship*	1.646	42	1270	0.931%	28.141%
16	12	*Information Processing and Management*	1.706	42	1312	0.931%	29.072%
17	13	*Journal of the American Society for Information Science*	2.148	36	1348	0.798%	29.869%
18	14	*Scientometrics*	1.535	35	1383	0.776%	30.645%
19	15	*Information Technology and Libraries*	1.331	34	1417	0.753%	31.398%

Table 8: Continues

20	16	*MIS Quarterly*	5.076	32	1449	0.709%	32.107%
21	17	*Computers in Libraries*	-	29	1478	0.643%	32.750%
22	17	*Communications of the ACM*	5.077	29	1507	0.643%	33.392%
23	18	*Information Today*	-	28	1535	0.620%	34.013%
24	18	*Aslib Proceedings*	0.723	28	1563	0.620%	34.633%
25	19	*Reference Services Review*	1.390	27	1590	0.598%	35.232%
26	19	*Information Research*	0.751	27	1617	0.598%	35.830%
27	20	*Library and Information Science Research*	2.310	25	1642	0.554%	36.384%
28	20	*Journal of Information Science*	1.533	25	1667	0.554%	36.938%
29	21	*Computers in Human Behavior*	2.406	24	1691	0.532%	37.470%
30	21	*Lecture Notes in Computer Science*	0.516	24	1715	0.532%	38.001%
31	21	*Ariadne*	-	24	1739	0.532%	38.533%
32	22	*Library & Information Science Research*	2.310	23	1762	0.510%	39.043%
33	22	*Webology*	0.380	23	1785	0.510%	39.552%
34	23	*Library Hi Tech News*	0.648	22	1807	0.487%	40.040%
35	23	*International Journal of Information Management*	2.859	22	1829	0.487%	40.527%
36	23	*Library Trends*	0.427	22	1851	0.487%	41.015%
37	24	*First Monday*	1.114	21	1872	0.465%	41.480%
38	24	*Serials Review*	0.410	21	1893	0.465%	41.945%
39	24	*Information and Management*	2.403	21	1914	0.465%	42.411%
40	24	*Management Science*	2.439	21	1935	0.465%	42.876%
41	25	*Collection Building*	0.563	20	1955	0.443%	43.319%
42	25	*OCLC Systems & Services*	0.449	20	1975	0.443%	43.762%
43	26	*Journal of Knowledge Management*	2.010	19	1994	0.421%	44.183%
44	27	*Journal of Library Administration*	1.388	18	2012	0.399%	44.582%
45	27	*Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*	0.909	18	2030	0.399%	44.981%
46	28	*Portal: Libraries and the Academy*	1.605	17	2047	0.377%	45.358%
47	28	*Journal of the Medical Library Association*	1.110	17	2064	0.377%	45.735%
48	28	*Journal of Business Ethics*	1.418	17	2081	0.377%	46.111%
49	28	*Expert Systems with Applications*	2.362	17	2098	0.377%	46.488%
50	29	*Information Development*	0.710	16	2114	0.355%	46.842%
51	29	*International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*	2.366	16	2130	0.355%	47.197%
52	30	*Internet Research*	1.371	15	2145	0.332%	47.529%
53	31	*The International Information and Library Review*	0.873	14	2159	0.310%	47.840%
54	31	*Library Technology Reports*	-	14	2173	0.310%	48.150%
55	31	*Libri*	0.626	14	2187	0.310%	48.460%
56	31	*Information & Management*	2.403	14	2201	0.310%	48.770%

Table 8: Continues

57	32	*Performance Measurement and Metrics*	0.664	13	2214	0.288%	49.058%
58	32	*The International Information & Library Review*	0.873	13	2227	0.288%	49.346%
59	32	*International Journal on Digital Libraries*	0.856	13	2240	0.288%	49.634%
60	32	*Internet Reference Services Quarterly*	0.483	13	2253	0.288%	49.922%
61	33	*Journal of Management Information Systems*	1.616	12	2265	0.266%	50.188%
62	33	*Journal of Marketing*	4.362	12	2277	0.266%	50.454%
63	33	*Information Systems Research*	1.990	12	2289	0.266%	50.720%
64	33	*American Libraries*	-	12	2301	0.266%	50.986%
65	34	*Online*	-	11	2312	0.244%	51.230%
66	34	*Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*		11	2323	0.244%	51.474%
67	34	*Collection Management*	1.512	11	2334	0.244%	51.717%
68	34	*Journal of Digital Information*	0.267	11	2345	0.244%	51.961%
69	34	*Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*	0.982	11	2356	0.244%	52.205%
70	35	*Reference and User Services Quarterly*	0.863	10	2366	0.222%	52.426%
71	35	*The Information Society*	1.837	10	2376	0.222%	52.648%
72	35	*Decision Support Systems*	2.265	10	2386	0.222%	52.869%
73	35	*Documentaliste – Sciences de l'Information*	-	10	2396	0.222%	53.091%
74	36	*7 Journals (9 each)*	-	81	2477	1.795%	54.886%
75	37	*9 Journals (8 each)*	-	72	2549	1.595%	56.481%
76	38	*19 Journals (7 each)*	-	133	2682	2.947%	59.428%
77	39	*21 Journals (6 each)*	-	126	2808	2.792%	62.220%
78	40	*24 Journals (5 each)*	-	140	2948	3.102%	65.322%
79	41	*41 Journals (4 each)*	-	172	3120	3.811%	69.134%
80	42	*71 Journals (3 each)*	-	240	3360	5.318%	74.452%
81	43	*161 Journals (2 each)*	-	324	3684	7.179%	81.631%
82	44	*832 Journals (1 each)*	-	832	4516	18.436%	100.000%

in their bibliometric analysis study of “The Electronic Library” between 2003-2009 have also founded “*The Electronic Library*” the most cited (270 citations, 7.399%) journals.

Bradford’s Law of Scattering

Bradford’s (1985) Law of scattering predicts the increasing productivity of journals from one zone to the next (in the expression 1: n: n2: n3), the total numbers of citations can be divided into three equal zones as per Bradford’s law. The total number of citations 4,516 will be divided in to three equal zone, result 1,505. It was found that, on an approximation, the first zone contains 22 journals which is considered as Bradford’s zone of core journals. The second zone contains the next 131 journals, and the last zone contained the next 1,105 journals. Hence, the distribution partially complies with Bradford’s law. The zone wise distribution of journals in depicted in following figure 1.

FINDINGS

The analysis of this study yielding the following findings:

1. The average number of articles per issue in

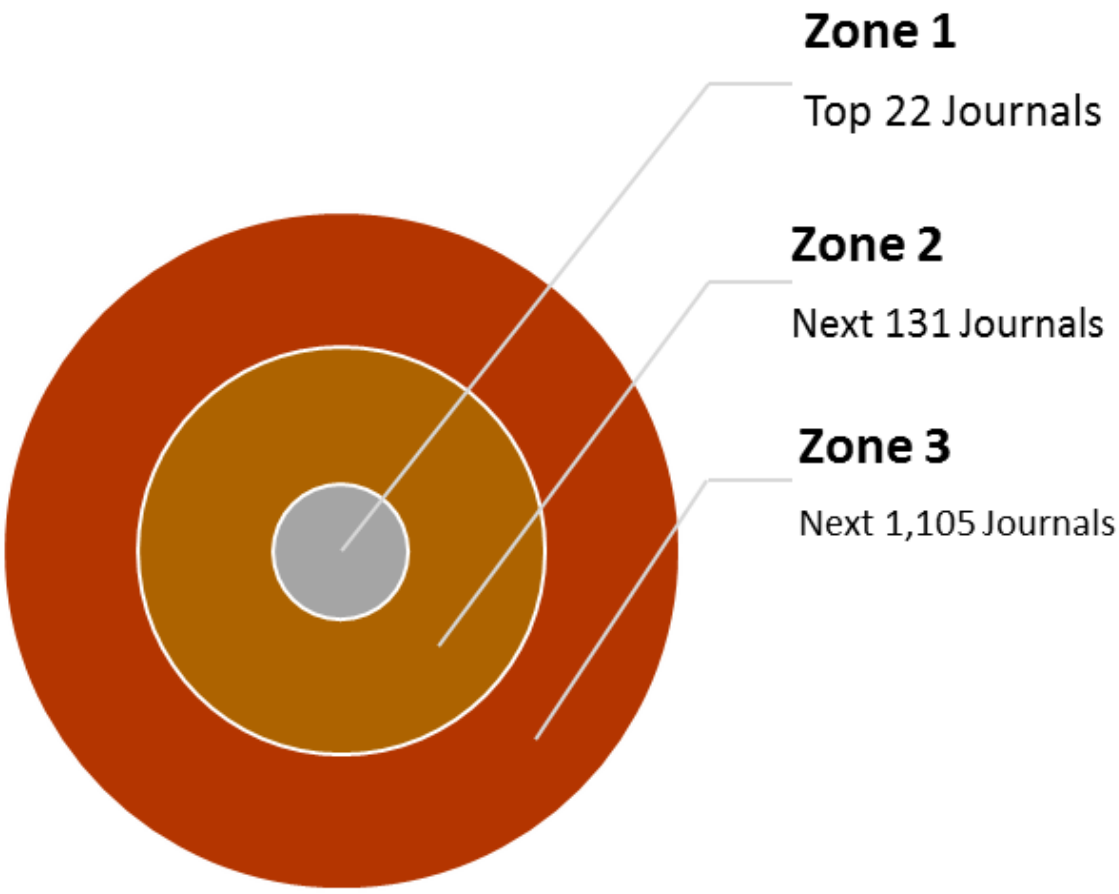

Figure 1

the Electronic Library Journal was 9 (8.633).
2. The average number of citation per articles was 29 (28.560).
3. The study revealed that the highest articles (57) published in the year of 2010.
4. The study revealed that the highest citations (1,807) received in year 2014
5. The study revealed that average length of articles was 16 (15.502) papers.
6. The study revealed that the majority of authors have cited the journals followed by e-contents and books.
7. The study revealed that the research papers occupied top position among the type of contributions.
8. The Electronic Library remained at the top in journal ranking following by Library Hi Tech, Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, College and Research Libraries and The Journal of Academic Librarianship.
9. The study revealed that the single authored articles placed highest position followed by two authors.
10. The study reveals that years from 2005 to 2008 evidenced highest (5,104) number of authors.

Suggestions for future research

The authors endeavored to make this study as comprehensive as possible, however the authors believe that adding certain factors would make this study more attractive and useful. Hence, the followings are the authors' suggestions for the future researches:

1. The Electronic Library may be re-visited after some years for a different time scope and the study could be expanded to involve authors' productivity pattern, degree of authors' collaboration and Impact Factor

based on citations which can further be compared with the corresponding impact factor of Thomson Reuters (ISI) for a given year.

2. The study could be extended to gender wise distribution of authors and geographical distribution of articles.
3. A comparative study may be conducted between two or more single journals of relatively similar standard with reference to the metrics used in this study.

CONCLUSION

The Electronic Library is an international high ranked journal, highlights the lasted research in digital libraries, library technology and library services for online and remote access. It is indexed in ISI, Scopus, computer science index and Ulrich. This study analysis five volumes (2010-2014) of The Electronic Library and yielded magnificent findings such as number of citation per year, authorship patterns, type of contributions, bibliographical forms of documents and many more. It is expected that the findings of this study will assist in enhancing collection development policy.

The Electronic Library may be re-assessed after some more years and the range of the study could be expanded to include the measure of authors' self-citation and gender wise distribution.

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