

Bibliometric Study of Publications in Conference Proceedings of SRFLIS Summit during 2014-2019

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to conduct a bibliometric analysis of the research articles of SRFLIS Summit- International Conferences held during the years 2014-2019 and investigate the various dimensions of bibliometric study. **Method:** The paper conducts bibliometric analysis of 220 articles which were published in the form of conference papers during the covered period. The study evaluates the various aspects of published conference articles of SRFLIS Summit. **Findings:** The study highlights the chronological distribution of papers, authorship pattern, geographical distribution, and affiliation of authors, citation pattern and length of articles. The results explore that the majority of the contributions by two authors. It is observed that a total of 2720 citations counted to the contributions and most cited documents are journal articles. The analysis of countries found that majority of contributions are from India and authors from New Delhi published maximum papers. **Conclusion:** The study evaluates the publication trends and has important implications for scholars and researchers.

Keywords: Bibliometric study; SRFLIS Summit, SRFLIS Conference; Authorship pattern; Citations analysis; Publication trends; Degree of collaboration, SRFLIS.

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How to Cite: Singh, K., Chander, H., & Sharma, R. (2020). Bibliometric Study of Publications in Conference Proceedings of SRFLIS Summit during 2014-2019. International Journal of Digital Content Management, 1(1), 9-26.

Introduction

The growth and development of any subject depend upon the research activities carried out within that domain. Publication in any field enhances the area of a discipline and presents the growth and trends of particular subject. Various research techniques have been employed to quantify and measure the published literature. Bibliometrics has become a significant tool to quantitatively analyse scientific research. It is not only considered to gauge the academic productivity of groups and institutions, but also it is used as a tool for analysis of individual publications and ranking of scholars. Bibliometrics was known earlier by many names from Librametry to Statistical Bibliography. The present term was coined by the Alan Pritchard in 1969. According to the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development “Bibliometrics is a statistical analysis of books, articles, or other publications”. In bibliometric analysis data is used on numbers and authors of scientific publications and on articles and the citations therein (and in patents) to measure the “output” of individuals/research teams, institutions, and countries, to identify national and international networks, and to map the development of new (multi-disciplinary) fields of science and technology” (OCED , 2013).

In the modern age, it is commonly seen that scholarly contributions are mostly published in journals and conference proceedings. A conference may be defined as “a collection of academic papers presented at a professional association meeting or conference. While conferences can be focused on any academic subject, from humanities, and social studies to natural and applied sciences, they are often focused on a specific discipline. In fact, one of the true qualities of conference proceedings lies in the fact that they are made up of research papers from many individuals, which makes their character distinctly different from scientific books, textbooks or journals” (Curran, 2011). The various universities, research institutions and professional associations organized a number of conferences every year in their respective fields. In the area of Library and Information Science (LIS), there are massive numbers of research papers accepted in the conferences organized at national and international level and these papers are published in the form of conference proceedings. It is worth learning about the contributions made by authors/researchers/

LIS professionals in conference proceedings and also knowing about the publishing trends of scholarly communications.

Literature Review

Corral-Marfil and Cànoves-Valiente (2016) evaluated the proceedings of the 17 editions of the conference of the 'Spanish Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism'. The study examined the origin of the research (countries, authors, and affiliate institutions), themes dealt with, subjects covered, geographical areas, and attitudes toward tourism (Corral-Marfil,2016). Yang and Qi (2020) compared the impacts of proceedings papers with 1,779,166 records from Conference Proceedings Citation Index (CPCI) in the Web of Science (WoS) in the period of 2013–2017 in the fields of social science and humanities and science. The study found that science fields had higher scholarly impacts than those in social science and humanities fields (Yang,2020). Rajgoli (2011) studied 12536 references appended to 1012 papers published in four Indian LIS journals for the period 2002-2010. The study revealed that there are 999 conference papers in all with an average of 0.99 conference paper per paper and journal articles found as the most important source of information among all the four journals(Rajgoli,2011).

A comprehensive analysis of CALIBER conventions held during 2008-2015, is presented by Shukla and Lalhlengliana (2019). A total of 319 papers were studied and India emerged as top contributors among others and 'Electronic Library' was a highly cited journal. Sab et al. (2016) Kumar and Birdaranalysed the 76 articles published in national conference proceedings organised by Kuvempu University College Librarian's Association, Shivamogga and found that majority of papers contributed from universities(Sab et.al,2016). Ravikumar&Chinnasamy (2018) carried out a study of national conference proceedings of Alagappa University and observed that out of total of 189 authors, most of the articles contributed by multiple authors(Ravikumar&Chinnasamy,2018). Bibliometric analyses of national conference proceedings conducted by Manthiramoorthi and Thamaraiselvi (2016) and found that majority of papers were published on ICT applications in libraries(Manthiramoorthi and Thamaraiselvi,2016). A study on National Convention on Knowledge Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) from 2001 to 2008 conducted by Doraswamy (2013). It showed that 300 conference

papers were published and the contribution is the highest in NACLIN 2007 and lowest in NACLIN 2008, and the average number of articles per conference volume is 37.5(Doraswamy,2013). Singh and Chander (2014) explored the publication trends of the scholarly journal Library Management of Emerald and indicated that majority of the contributions by single authors and most cited documents are journal articles(Singh and chander,2014). Dash et al. (2015) reviewed the papers published in the Library Assessment Conference proceedings (2006-2014) and revealed that the numbers of contributors are increasing over time(Dash et al,2015). Gogoi & Barooah (2016) in their research indicated that journal articles are dominantly cited which confirms that scientific journals played an important role in scientific communication(Gogoi & Barooah,2016). Cash et al. (2013) conducted a bibliometric analysis of contributions of Design 2012 conference and over 2700 citations were identified, classified and grouped. It is noticed that individual authors contributed the maximum to the wider scope of work from related fields(Cash et al.,2013).

Source and Scope of the Study

The Satija Research Foundation for Library and Information Science (SRFLIS) <www.srflisindia.org> is a nonprofit, nongovernmental professional association established in 2009 with its headquarters New Delhi, under the Society Act XXI-1860, Government of India with objectives of: to promote research and development activities in the Library and Information Science; to launch/sponsor/publish and distribute research and scholarly library literature; to organize seminars, workshops, competitions, training programs and special lecturers in LIS; to award scholarships to deserving and meritorious students and researchers; to undertake consultancy and research project in the domain of LIS; to undertake, encourage, promote and sponsor any and all such activities, which sustain and promote the LIS in India; and to collaborate with similar organizations in the field to achieve its mission and executive its function (SRFLIS ,2019).

The SRFLIS Summit is a band name of the SRFLIS International Conference and a very popular academic event in India. The SRFLIS in collaboration with Tecnia Institute of Advanced Study and Delhi Library Association has organized three international conferences during the year of 2014, 2015 and 2019. All three conferences follow the international standards in terms of quality and publishing and set

many benchmark practices in the field of library and information science in producing high quality research literature. The present study is intended to analyse only research papers published and presented in the conferences. The editorials, abstracts, posters and oral presentations are excluded from the study.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are given as:

1. To identify the number of papers published during the year 2014, 2015 and 2019 conferences;
2. To know the subject-wise distribution of the conference articles;
3. To examine the authorship pattern of the papers;
4. To know the gender-wise distribution of authors;
5. To know the institutions-wise distribution of the contributions;
6. To find out the geographical distribution of the publications;
7. To study the types and number of publications cited in the papers of the conference proceedings; and
8. To analyse the length of conference papers during the covered period.

Methodology Adopted

The study is based on a survey and the required data was collected directly from the soft copies of the proceeding papers made available by the organizing secretary of the conference and from the foundation website. A total of 220 full-text papers for the study were consulted and a table was prepared in MS Excel by creating desired fields and data manually input in the MS Excel sheet. Appropriate tables were created with the help of MS Excel, diagrams/charts not included in the study keeping the length of the paper.

Analysis and Discussions

6.1 Chronological Distribution of Contributions

Table 1 shows that 220 articles have been published during 2014, 2015 and 2019 SRFLIS Summit- International Conferences. The maximum papers 78 (35.45%) have been contributed in the year 2015 followed by the year 2014 with 74 (33.64%) papers and 68 (30.91%) published during the year 2019.

Table 1: Distribution of Articles

Year	Number of Articles	Percentage
2014	74	33.64
2015	78	35.45
2019	68	30.91
Total	220	100

Authorship Pattern

Table 2 analyses the authorship pattern of the conferences' articles. It indicates that highest number of articles 89 (40.04%) were two authored, followed by the single-authored papers 85 (38.63%), three-authored papers 37 (16.81%) and more than three authors with 9 (4.09%) contributions. However, the pattern of authorship does not follow a uniform trend during the period of study as the number of two authored papers is highest in the year 2015 with 34 publications and lowest in 2014 with 23. Similarly, single-authored papers were highest in the year 2014 (35) and lowest in 2019 (17).

Table 2: Authorship Pattern of Contributions

No. of Authors	Year of Contributions			Total
	2014	2015	2019	
Single	35 (47.3%)	33 (42.31%)	17 (25%)	85 (38.63%)
Two	23 (31.08%)	34 (43.59%)	32 (47.05%)	89 (40.04%)
Three	13 (17.57%)	10 (12.82%)	14 (20.6%)	37 (16.81%)
More than three	3 (4.05%)	1 (1.28%)	5 (7.35%)	9 (4.09%)
Total No. of Articles	74	78	68	220
Total No. of Authors	136	135	143	414

The gender-wise distribution of the authors has been presented in the Table 3, which highlights that a total number of 414 authors contributed the 220 papers during the three SRFLIS Summit. It is observed from the table3 that majority of contributed authors 278

(67.15%) were by male authors while 136 (32.85%) by female authors.

Table 3: Gender-wise Distribution of Authorship

Authors	Year of Contributions			No. of Authors	Percentage
	2014	2015	2019		
Male	97	87	94	278	67.15
Female	39	48	49	136	32.85
Total	136	135	143	414	100

6.2.1 Degree of Collaboration

The Degree of Collaboration (C) of the contributors has been calculated using the Subramanyam (1983) formula.

Table 4: Degree of Collaboration in SRFLIS conferences

Year of Conference	Single Author (Ns)	Multiple Authors (Nm)	Total (Ns+Nm)	Degree of Collaboration
2014	35	39	74	0.52
2015	33	45	78	0.57
2019	17	51	68	0.75
Total	85	135	220	0.61

$$\text{Degree of Collaboration (C)} = \frac{Nm}{Nm + Ns}$$

Where,

C = Degree of Collaboration

Nm = Number of Multiple authors

Ns = Number of Single authors

Table 4 displays the Degree of Collaboration among authors. The Degree of Collaboration for SRFLIS Summit 2014 is 0.52 which is the lowest one. For the SRFLIS Summit 2015, Degree of Collaboration is 0.57. The Degree of Collaboration for SRFLIS 2019 is 0.75 which is the highest value amongst all SRFLIS Summit during the study. On an average, the Degree of Collaboration was 0.61. The higher the Degree of Collaboration tends to the higher level of collaborative works and vice-versa.

Institutions' Affiliation of Authors

Table 5 shows the institution wise distribution of authors. Out of 414 contributors, overwhelming majority with the highest numbers, i.e. 240 (57.97%) authors found affiliated from universities, followed by colleges/institutes 114 (27.54%), information/research centres 38 (9.18%), Govt. departments 11(2.65%) and 9 (2.17%) from school libraries respectively.

Table 5: Institution-wise Affiliation of Authors

Type of Institution	Year of the Conference			No. of Authors	Percentage
	2014	2015	2019		
Universities	80	57	103	240	57.97
Colleges/Institutes	40	56	18	114	27.54
Information/Research Centres	11	13	14	38	09.18
Government Departments	3	4	4	11	02.65
School Libraries	2	4	3	9	02.17
Miscellaneous	0	1	1	2	0.48
Total	136	135	143	414	100

Geographical Distribution of Authors

Table 6 describes the country wise distribution of authors. It is noticed that highest amount of contributions to the SRFLIS Summit made by the 394 (95.41%) Indian authors. However, the rest of authors have been affiliated to China, USA, UK, Nigeria, Brazil, Iran, Mexico and Sri Lanka.

Table 6: Country-wise Distribution of Authors

Name of the Country	Year of the Conference			No. of Authors	Percentage
	2014	2015	2019		
India	132	130	132	394	95.41
China	0	2	5	7	01.07
Nigeria	0	0	5	4	0.97
USA	2	0	0	2	0.48
Sri Lanka	0	2	0	2	0.48
Iran	1	0	0	1	0.24
Mexico	1	0	0	1	0.24
Brazil	0	1	0	1	0.24
UK	0	0	1	1	0.24
Total	136	135	143	414	100

India is a large country comprising 28 States and eight Union Territories (UT). Table 7 depicts that the contributions to the three SRFLIS Summit have been made by the Indian authors of 26 States/UTs. It is found that highest numbers of 177 (44.92%) authors have contributed from Delhi, followed by authors from Uttar Pradesh 63 (15.99%), Assam 24 (6.09%), Haryana 15 (3.81%), Punjab 14 (3.56%), Rajasthan 12 (3.05%), Jammu & Kashmir 11 (2.79%), Mizoram 9 (2.28%) and 8 (2.03%) authors contributed from Tamil Nadu & Karnataka states each. The 7 (1.78%) authors contributed from the states like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh each, followed by Uttarakhand with 6 (1.52%) authors, and Manipur, Tripura, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh with four contributors from each state. The three authors are from Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh each, two authors from Chandigarh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, and Puducherry each and one author from Bihar, Meghalaya and Kerala respectively.

Table 7: State-wise Distribution of Indian Authors

Name of the State	Year of the Conference			No. of Authors	Percentage
	2014	2015	2019		
New Delhi	42	71	64	177	44.92
Uttar Pradesh	34	13	16	63	15.99
Assam	9	13	2	24	6.09
Haryana	5	3	7	15	3.81
Punjab	4	6	4	14	3.56
Rajasthan	4	3	5	12	3.05
Jammu & Kashmir	1	6	4	11	2.79
Mizoram	0	3	6	9	2.28
Tamil Nadu	6	0	2	8	2.03
Karnataka	4	0	4	8	2.03
Maharashtra	6	1	0	7	1.78
Madhya Pradesh	3	4	0	7	1.78
Uttarakhand	4	1	1	6	1.52
Manipur	2	2	0	4	1.02
Tripura	0	0	4	4	1.02
Gujarat	0	0	4	4	1.02
Chhattisgarh	3	0	1	4	1.02
Jharkhand	1	2	0	3	0.77
Himachal Pradesh	1	1	1	3	0.77
Chandigarh	0	0	2	2	0.5
Andhra Pradesh	2	0	0	2	0.5
Orissa	0	0	2	2	0.5
Puducherry	0	0	2	2	0.5
Bihar	1	0	0	1	0.25
Kerala	0	0	1	1	0.25
Meghalaya	0	1	0	1	0.25
Total	132	130	132	394	100

Subject Mapping and Distribution

Since 2014, the SRFLIS has organized three international conferences. The conferences call for papers on different topics and themes. Table 8 lists the key topics of papers published in the conference proceedings. These topics were scanned using articles' titles and

keywords. A large number of papers under the study devoted to the topics such as ‘Information seeking behavior’ 24 (10.91%), ‘Metric studies’ 19 (8.64%), ‘Knowledge management’ 17 (7.73%) and ‘Green management’ 16 (7.27%). Moreover, ‘Mobile technology in libraries’ 13 (5.90%), ‘E-learning/e-resources’ 12 (5.45%), ‘Library management’ 11 (5%), ‘Library automation’ 10 (4.54%) and ‘Marketing of LIS products and services’ 09 (4.09%) are also among the most common topics, covered by the various authors of SRFLIS conferences. The other important topics are Digital libraries, LIS education and research, Library services, Total quality management, Institutional repository, Social media, Information literacy, Cloud computing, Metadata, Collection management, Academic library, Digital India, Web 2.0, Digital preservation and so on.

Table 8: Mapping and Distribution of Major Topics

Name of Subject	No. of Contributions	Percentage
Information seeking behavior	24	10.91
Metric studies	19	8.64
Knowledge management	17	7.73
Green management	16	7.27
Mobile Technology in libraries	13	5.90
E-learning/e-resources/consortia	12	5.45
Library management	11	5.00
Library automation	10	4.54
Marketing of LIS products and services	9	4.09
Digital Libraries	8	3.63
LIS education and research	7	3.18
ICT in libraries	6	2.72
Library services	5	2.27
Total quality management	5	2.27
Institutional repository	4	1.81
Social media	4	1.81
Information literacy	4	1.81
RFID in libraries	3	1.36
Cloud computing in libraries	3	1.36
Content management and access	3	1.36
Digital preservation	3	1.36

MOOCs	3	1.36
Web technology	3	1.36
Semantic web	2	0.90
Green library	2	0.90
Content management software	2	0.90
Web 2.0	2	0.90
Change management	2	0.90
Preservation	2	0.90
Cyber law	2	0.90
Digital India	2	0.90
Open access initiatives	2	0.90
Academic libraries	2	0.90
Information storage and retrieval	2	0.90
Collection management	2	0.90
Metadata	2	0.90
Artificial intelligence	2	0.90
Total	220	100

Classification of Papers-Category wise

Table 9 focuses that the category wise classification of the papers. The analysis indicates that the maximum number of articles were published under the category of research papers i.e. 85 (38.64%), whereas 61 (27.72%) articles were published under the general review and viewpoint category. There were 42 (19.09%) articles published under the categories case studies and 32 (14.55%) conference papers published as technical papers.

Table 9: Category wise Classification of Papers

Type of Papers	Year			No. of Contributions	Percentage
	2014	2015	2019		
General Review and Viewpoint	8	19	34	61	27.72
Research Papers	31	40	14	85	38.64
Technical Papers	13	12	7	32	14.55
Case Study	22	7	13	42	19.09
Total	74	78	68	220	100

Distribution of Citations

Table 10 reveals that 2720 citations appended to 220 articles of three SRFLIS Summit. The maximum numbers of citations 1055 received to the 78 articles during the year 2015, followed by the 852 citations obtained to 68 articles during the year 2019 and 813 citations appeared to the 74 articles for the year 2014. It is found the 12.36% citations per paper during the three conferences.

Table 10: Distribution of Average Citations

Year	No. of Citations	No. of Articles	Average Citations
2014	813	74	10.99
2015	1055	78	13.53
2019	852	68	12.53
Total	2720	220	12.36

Types of Document Cited

Authors cite different types of documents in their articles which have been given in Table 11. The citations comprise articles from journals, books, online/web resources, conference proceedings, theses and dissertations, etc. Table 11 represents the year-wise analysis of publications cited by authors. It is indicated that authors mostly cite to journal articles that is 1178 (43.30%) citations. This is due to the fact that journals are a prime channel of original research. The other major categories such as online/web resources 575 (21.14%) and books with 353 (12.98%) citations. The remaining cited documents are seminar/conferences 255 (9.38%), book chapters 91 (3.35%), government documents 87 (3.19%), and so on. It shows that authors are using journals, online documents, and books more for writing their research papers.

Table 11: Types of Document Cited

Type of Document Cited	Year of the Conferences			No. of References	Percentage
	2014	2015	2019		
Journals	333	382	463	1178	43.30
Books	127	125	101	353	12.98
Book chapters	44	33	14	91	3.35
Conference/seminars	90	125	40	255	9.38
Technical reports	26	22	09	57	2.09
Online/web resources	134	272	169	575	21.14
Government documents	13	41	33	87	3.19
Magazine/newsletter	27	24	0	51	1.88
Thesis/dissertations	04	03	09	16	0.59
Miscellaneous	15	28	14	57	2.09
Total	813	1055	852	2720	100

Pagination Pattern

An analysis of pagination pattern of papers has been presented in Table 12. It reveals that the majority of SRFLIS conferences papers 176 (80%) have a length between six to ten pages followed by 27 (12.27%) articles with page length of 11-15 pages, 15 (6.82%) articles with one to five pages and remaining 02 (0.91%) articles have the length of 16-20 pages.

Table 12: Length of Articles

No. of Pages	Year of the Conference			No. of Contributions	Percentage
	2014	2015	2019		
1 to 5	7	4	4	15	6.82
6 to 10	58	62	56	176	80
11 to 15	8	11	8	27	12.27
16 to 20	1	1	0	2	0.91
Total	74	78	68	220	100

Findings and Conclusion

The key findings of the study drawn from the discussion are given below:

- The study finds that majority of the contributions/ articles are two-authored with 89 (40.04%), the single-authored papers with 85 (38.63%) and on average, the Degree of Collaboration among authors was 0.61.

- The study observed majority of contributed authors are 278(67.15%) male while 136 (32.85%) female authors contributed to the conferences' papers.
- The study reveals that highest numbers, i.e. 240 (57.97%) authors are affiliated from universities, followed by colleges/institutes 114 (27.54%), information/research centers 38 (9.18%).
- From the geographical distributions it is observed that highest amount of contributions to the SRFLIS conferences made by 394 (95.41%) Indian authors and a large number of 177 (44.92%) authors have contributed from the capital of the country New Delhi.
- The study finds that major topics covered were as 'Information seeking behavior' 24 (10.91%), 'Metric studies' 19 (8.64%), and 'Knowledge management' 17 (7.73%).
- The category-wise classification of conference papers indicates that majority of published articles was research papers i.e. 85 (38.64%), and 61 (27.72%) articles published under the general review and viewpoint category.
- The analysis of citations reveals that a total number of 2720 citations appeared to the 220 conference papers and journal articles that are 1178 (43.30%) were mostly cited by the authors.
- Pagination pattern exhibits that majority of conference articles 176 (80%) have the page-length between 6-10 pages and 27 (12.27%) papers are of the page-length between 11-15 pages.

The present study attempted to analyse the research productivity in area of Library and Information Science which is based on three important international conferences organized by the library foundation known as SRFLIS during the period of 2014, 2015 and 2019. The papers published in these conferences cover vast subject fields of LIS and discuss the various trends of librarianship. The authorship analysis reveals that overall collaborative papers were more due to multiple authorship patterns prevalent in SRFLIS conferences. Further, a strong Degree of Collaboration between authors has been observed during the study period. The purpose of geographical distribution of authors was to know the trends of publication which shows the maximum contributions submitted from India and the authors of the capital e.g. New Delhi contributed most. The SRFLIS conferences cover authors from 26 States and Union Territories of India. From the study, it is explored that 'Journal

Articles' are the most prevalent form of document used in references and most of articles contributed from universities. The study is very useful for the faculty, researchers, policy makers, students in the field of library and information science.

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How to Cite: Singh, K., Chander, H., & Sharma, R. (2020). Bibliometric Study of Publications in Conference Proceedings of SRFLIS Summit during 2014-2019. *International Journal of Digital Content Management*, 1(1), 9-26.

DOI: 10.22054/dcm.2020.54606.1003



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