INFORMATION USE PATTERN OF RESEARCHERS IN HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE IN KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY, KURUKSHETRA AND MAHARISHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK: AN ANALYSIS OF DOCTORAL THESES

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SUMMARY

Literature is increasing day by day in libraries. It is available in print form such as books, theses, journals, bibliographies, dissertations, encyclopedias, and other secondary and tertiary sources and in non-print form such as C.D., floppy, pen-drive and online databases etc. The librarian has to give the accurate information to the users; for this purpose he has to consult different sources in the library available in different formats and media. All sources are not acquired by librarian in the library. It is not possible for any library to acquire all information sources, so the librarian has to decide which sources are going to be more useful to the users of that library and acquire them. There are many methods of knowing the useful sources like user survey, analysis of the library records, analysis of documents produced by the users, etc. Analysis of different types of documents and their characteristics is quite popular in Library and Information Science, and is known as Bibliometrics.

Citation analysis is one of the important major branches of bibliometrics. Analysis of citation is analysis of the references forming part of primary and secondary data communication.

Citation analysis is an established research tool used by librarians, teachers and information scientists to indicate relationship that exists between the cited and citing documents. When one author cites another, a relationship is established. Citation is used in scholarly works to establish links; many deferent links can be ascertained, such as links between authors to scholarly works, journals, fields or even between countries. Citation both from and to a certain document may be studied. One very common use of citation analysis is to determine the impact of a single author and a given field by counting the number of times, the author has been cited by others.

The researchers use information resources available in their university library or other libraries or even available free on the internet. Knowledge of the sources used by researchers shall not only improve the understanding of the researchers but also help in making the information system more efficient by allocation of budget for resources in different form and acquiring highly used sources. The two disciplines of Political Science and History have some common content and therefore may have some common information resources also. The study shall be able to identify those information sources used by both Historians and Political Scientists.

The objectives of this study are: to analyse doctoral theses according to year, gender of researcher, name of supervisor, language, size, supervisor and total citations; to analyse
citations appended to these theses according to bibliographic form of cited documents; to analyse the book and periodical citations according to number and gender of author, place of publication and period; to identify highly cited books and periodicals, and compare these with the collections/subscription lists of respective libraries and to identify the books and journals commonly used by Historians and Political Scientists.

Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra and Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak being major centers of education and research, provide opportunity for conducting a large number of doctoral studies every year and houses their products in the form of 180 doctoral theses available in History and Political Science up to 2012. The present study is intended to estimate the use of various documentary sources of information by doctoral researchers of the Departments of History and Political Science based on doctoral theses submitted and awarded since beginning of the research in these universities.

The findings reveal that in both the disciplines male researchers are more than female researchers. The researchers of both the disciplines in both the universities prefer English over Hindi for presentation of their theses.

Out of 26306 total citations, 14122 were in History and 12184 in Political Science. The highest number of 9146 (64.76%) books were cited in History while this number in Political Science was 7141 (58.60%) citations. There were 957 (6.77%) journal citations in History and in Political Science there were 2004 (16.45%) citations of journals.

The researchers in History and Political Science mainly use books for their research work. The use of periodicals in these two disciplines is quite low. In both the subjects i.e. History and Political Science, mainly single authored books are used. The researchers in History and Political Science mainly use Indian books. Within India the publications of the Delhi base publishers are used more. This may be due to the reason that Delhi is the Hub of publishing industry in India. The researchers in History and Political Science use mainly English language books.

The journal literature used in both the subjects, History and Political Science is mainly single authored, although to some lesser degree than books. Similar trend is visible in gender of cited authors. The researchers in History and Political Science in Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra and Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak mainly use literature of English language. Moreover, these researchers prefer Indian journals. The researchers in Political Science use relatively current literature than the researchers of History.