CHAPTER 7

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
SUGGESTIONS
AND
CONCLUSION
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7.1 INTRODUCTION

Citation analysis studies reveals an effective collection, organisation and dissemination of information for the Library managers and research scholars. Librarians will be in a better position to rectify their subscription policy with their limited resources. This is possible by subscribing a handful of core journals which cover maximum segment of contemporary literature. Further, it is possible to provide the most appropriate and pinpointed services like SDI and CAS, likewise the research scientists will be kept abreast of the recent trends of their research field.

7.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Following are the major findings drawn from the study:

7.2.1 The first finding, is the lack of uniformity among all the theses in the format of the citations.

7.2.2 It is observed that the average number of citations per thesis is 140 in Commerce, 139 in Economics, 187 in Political Science, 169 in History, 190 in Sociology, 190 in Anthropology and 200 in Geography.

7.2.3 The distribution of citations among the different types of documents indicates that books (64.95%) and journal articles (15.42%) are highly cited.
7.2.4 Distribution of citations among the subjects reveals that a major portion nearly 80% of citations are gathered from the documents devoted to subject concerned as a whole and also it is shown that the subject social sciences is interdisciplinary in nature.

7.2.5 Distribution of language among the citations reveals that Gauhati University Social Science research scholars are much depend on documents published in English language (96.78%).

7.2.6 The citations of documents published in India amount to 74.60%, in U.S.A 14.98%, in U.K. 8.40% and from other countries it is quite less.

7.2.7 The distribution of citations among periodicals in Social Sciences is in accordance to Bradford's law of distribution except Anthropology.

7.2.8 Obsolescence factors are determined and it is observed that Annual Aging factor varies from one discipline to another. The lowest AAF is found in Anthropology (0.9352) and Economics (0.9541) has got the highest value of AAF among the subjects in Social Sciences journal articles. It also reveals that AAF of cited books in different disciplines of Social Sciences varies from one discipline to another, and it is also determined that the half-life, mean-life, utility factor and corrected obsolescence factors in social
sciences. It is observed that these obsolescence factors vary from one discipline to another.

7.2.9 The research scholars in social science have cited 31.85% documents available in the Gauhati University Library.

7.2.10 The Anthropology journal articles data is not in accordance with Bradford's Law of Scattering. Statistically as well as graphically.

7.3 SUGGESTIONS

7.3.1 Subscription to important and leading information services and their products such as 'Social Science Citation Index' would provide better opportunity for the research workers to know the relevant source materials for their specific requirements.

7.3.2 Periodical orientation programme should be arranged for the Research Scholars in order to exploit the available resource in the library.

7.3.3 The acquisition policy of the Gauhati University library may be systematically evaluated in the light of the findings of the present study.

7.3.4 Provision of timely Reprography and Translation services calls for the immediate attention by the concerned.
7.3.5 Materials are not easily accessible due to many restrictions, hence attempts are to be made to remove these difficulties by compiling proper catalogue.

7.3.6 Among all the sources, conference proceedings, reports are least used. This is because of lack of information about them. Secondly, they are not easily accessible due to so many restrictions. Hence, attempts are to be made to remove these difficulties by compiling proper catalogue, bibliographies, abstracting and indexing services.

7.3.7 The subscription policy of the Gauhati University Library should be evaluated with the help of ranking list.

7.3.8 Periodical orientation programme should be arranged for the research scholars in order to exploit the available resources in the Library.

7.4 APPLICATION OF THE STUDY

On the basis of the findings of the study, there are three potential applications, viz.,

7.4.1 Resource allocation to different types of documentary sources,

7.4.2 Subscriptions to current periodicals, and

7.4.3 Acquisition and retention of back runs of periodicals.
These three applications will no doubt ensure effective and well balanced collection development programme and result in better utilization of limited resources.

In the light of this study, a line of approach can be drawn and the topics for further research in this field may be suggested as follows:

a) Standardisation of use data elements in each Social Science subject.

b) Bibliographic Coupling.

a) Reasons for citing.

7.5 CONCLUSION

This study will provide guidelines for librarians in the decision making process with regard to acquisition subscription, compact shelving and weeding out of documents.

The exponential growth of literature and the escalating cost of reading materials, coupled with the rising cost of organising the collection on the one hand and the shrinking budget allocation on the other, are factors that necessitate the librarians of modern times to think more in terms of adopting statistical techniques for rational decision making. The prospective librarians have to act as intermediary between recorded knowledge and the patron in an effort to provide improved quality in the service.
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In the light of this study, a line of approach can be drawn and suggestions can be made as follows:

(a) **Standardisation of use data elements in each Social Science subjects:**

The inconsistencies in regards to the choice of the heading and bibliographical descriptions are to be checked. About the rendering of citation there are as number of any one of standards, which may be followed by the scholars. Among the standard manuals Harvard Referencing System, Chicago University style manual, Modern Languages Association style sheet are some.

(b) **Bibliographic Coupling:**

Bibliographic coupling technique can be adopted to identify documents which are closely related.

(c) **Reasons for Citing:**

A document is likely to get cited due to its accessibility. Accessibility may be an important factor as quality in the selection of an information source. Hence, easy accessibility can be made to the scholars by compiling proper catalogue & bibliography.