CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION
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1.1 NEED FOR THE STUDY

Library and library related problems are many and varied and they are similar in complexity when compared to any other field. As in education or business a library deals with many factors, both human and nonhuman. All library problems are directly related to three groups of people, the information producers, the information organizers and the information users. The next important factor is information itself presented in a convenient form such as a monograph or journal article. Here the problem arises in connection with the selection, estimation, organization and servicing of each library material. In the past, the estimation or evaluation of a service was done arbitrarily. Now due to the continuous growth of literature, subjective judgment was the order of the day. In order to estimate, selection and organise library materials the quantitative methods were developed namely "Citation Analysis" to describe the use of library materials, and to select core journals to the library users.

Therefore, a clear understanding of the characteristics of subject literature is one of the prerequisites and has paramount importance in planning and designing of information systems and services devoted to a particular field. The investigator belonged to the north east region and interested to develop a social science data base
for the research scholars in the field of social sciences, hence the present study has been undertaken.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

"Citation Analysis of the Ph.D. theses in social sciences, accepted by Gauhati University during 1970-1980"

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objective of the study are:

To find out characteristics of the sources of literature used by social sciences scholars of Gauhati University, in their Ph.D. dissertations as the sample, particularly with reference to the followings:

1.3.1 Average number of Citations;
1.3.2 Distribution of citations among different forms of sources;
1.3.3 Distribution by place of publication;
1.3.4 Distribution by language;
1.3.5 Identifying the core journals in each subjects;
1.3.6 Obsolescence of literature;
1.3.7 Availability of the cited documents in the Gauhati university library.
1.3.8 Identifying the parameters to be considered in the acquisition policy based on the citation analysis; and
1.3.9 Ascertain whether the distribution of citations
among the periodicals conform to the "Bradford's law of distribution".

1.4 HYPOTHESES

In the present study an attempt has been made to test the following hypotheses:

1.4.1 Books and periodicals are the most preferred channel of information for social science research scholars.

1.4.2 Major portion of citations cited by the scholars are devoted to the subjects concerned as a whole or to any of its sub-divisions.

1.4.3 Social Science literature used by the scholars studied are mostly published from India and in English language.

1.4.4 Data in social sciences does not fit with the Bradford's law of scattering.

1.4.5 There is significant difference of the obsolescence factors of literature cited in various subjects of social sciences.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The scope of the present work is limited to the Ph.D. theses in social sciences, accepted by Gauhati university during 1970-1980.

1.6 METHODOLOGY

A number of methods are available for analysis of a
subject literature. They can be grouped into quantitative and qualitative methods. The main method used in the present study is quantitative one. Citation approach, as the methodology chosen for investigation, is based on the analysis of the bibliographies or references appended to the thesis.

The Ph.D. theses in social sciences accepted by the Gauhati University during 1970-80 were taken as source material for the present study. The total number of citations are 13,682. The bibliographical details of each citation was collected on separate slips of 5"x3" size and the data was tabulated and analysed for results and discussion.

1.7 ANALYSIS

This investigation makes the following analysis:

1.7.1. Format of citation

Recognising all the relevant bibliographic element of the source materials rendering them in a most helpful sequence and arranging the entries in a systematic way will result in the effective and efficient communication. Therefore the investigation studies the structure of citation and the element used by each thesis.

1.7.2. Quantity:

The investigation then turns to consider the quantity of references attached to research writings. The
number of citations falling within specific areas indicate the amount of activity in each of these areas. These are also studied and tabulated.

1.7.3. Distribution by form:

The different forms of documents used in each thesis and the relative importance of the different type of documents are also studied.

1.7.4. Core journals:

The citation data are studied to find out the core journals and to rank them.

1.7.5. Distribution by subjects:

The subject distribution of the citations is also studied by classifying each citation.

1.7.6. Distribution by the place of publication:

The distribution of the citations by the place of publication is also studied.

1.7.7. Distribution by Age:

The obsolescence factors of the literatures cited are studied.

1.7.8. Distribution by Language:

The distribution of citations by language is
identified and _ predominant language noted.

1.7.9. Availability of the documents in the Gauhati university library.

The availability of the cited documents in Gauhati university library is checked up and the percentage of each document available in each form is also studied.

1.8 CHAPTERIZATIONS

The thesis has been divided into the following eight chapters:

CHAPTER - 1
Discuss the need for the study, states the objective, hypothesis and methodology.

CHAPTER -2
Mentions definition and scope of social sciences development of information systems in social sciences, social science citation index etc.

CHAPTER -3
Provides an overview of citation study, its origin and citation analysis studies.

CHAPTER -4-
An attempt is made to identify the various form of documents cited in the theses.

CHAPTER - 5
Ranks the journals in the respective field of social sciences.
CHAPTER 6

Studies age distribution of the citations.

CHAPTER 7

Gives the findings and conclusion.
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