Chapter – 4

Methodology
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4.1 INTRODUCTION

Citation analysis is one of the most important bibliometric techniques involving analysis of the references forming part of the primary communications. Citations are the formal explicit linkage between publications that have particular points in common.

Cito-analytical study of the doctoral theses forms an important source of information. Such studies may be useful for acquisition of material, provision of better services to patrons and knowing the location of materials. What part of literature is cited most, how long the literature remains useful to readers, and languages of most cited publications, knowledge of all these provides guidance to collection development policies, individual item selection, and retention & binding decisions.[1]

4.2 PURPOSE

Citation analysis is one of the popular methods employed in recent years for identification of core documents and complex relationship, citing and cited documents for a particular scientific community in a geographical proximity. The purpose of the present study is to investigate the use pattern of literature as revealed through the analysis of citations collected from the Doctoral theses of Education accepted by Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for the period of 5 years, i.e., 2001-2005.[2]
4.3 SCOPE

The topic of the present study is “Doctoral Dissertations submitted in the department of Education, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh from 2001-2005: A citation analysis”. The scope of study needs to be defined in relation to the terms and concepts we used:[3]

4.4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are to identify:

i. Subject-wise identification of doctoral Theses;
ii. Forms of literature cited in the doctoral Theses;
iii. Rank list of the journals and to find out the core journals;
iv. Decade-wise distribution of citations;
v. Language-wise distribution of the cited documents;
vi. Geographical scattering of the cited documents;
vii. Authorship pattern of cited documents;
viii. Rank list of authors to find out the most eminent personalities in the field of English.

4.5 HYPOTHESES

i. The researchers in the field of English are mainly consulting ‘Books’
ii. The most cited journal is ‘TESOL Quarterly’
iii. Current journals are the most cited.
iv. Most productive country is India
v. The majority of the papers have been producing by the single Authors.
vi. Periodicals used by the researchers were completely in English language.

vii. Single authors have produced the majority of the books.

4.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Selection of source documents

The first step in this study is to select the source document from which data is to be collected. For this purpose doctoral dissertation has been consulted.

2. Collection of data

The first and most important task is to collect the references from each thesis. The data has been collected from 2001-2005. It is important to note that Total Twenty Seven (27) dissertation have been submitted during this period in the Department of English of A.M.U, Aligarh. The data relating to all references to the thesis during the period have been collected and tabulated. Information was recorded on the Microsoft Excel Software.[4]

4.7 Analysis and Interpretation

All citations are arranged and rearranged in order to conduct the following types of studies:

(i) Form wise distribution

Literature cited in the doctoral thesis is published in different forms like books, journals, conference proceedings, thesis, reports etc. The information regarding the form was collected from English thesis during
the year 2001-2005 and tabulated to find out the most dominant form of literature.

(ii) Ranking of periodicals

It helps to identify the core periodical containing the research literature in the doctoral thesis. It is necessary to know the most productive journal used in references, for further study of the subject. This information will be useful for the librarians and research scholars as core journals in the field. For this purpose a ranked list of periodicals was prepared.

(iii) Decade wise distribution

This study reveals how many citations were cited in which year. The pattern shows the increasing or decreasing trends of the references used per annum.

(iv) Country -wise Distribution of Citation

For the distribution of citations according to language a table has been made in which entries were grouped according to their language of origin.

(v) Ranking of Authors

It helps to know the eminent personalities in the subject, whose work is used by the authors to define their ideas on the subject or topic. The data entry of different cited authors in the field were separated out. Cited authors were ranked in order of decreasing productivity. The results are then tabulated.
4.8 LIMITATIONS

The study is only limited to the doctoral dissertation submitted in the department of English (2001-2005), AMU.

4.9 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

(i) Such studies can serve as guidelines for the libraries to decide which publication should get a higher priority for acquisition.
(ii) Such studies can serve as guidelines to the document list and information scientists in deciding which publications need to be indexed in CAS and covered in SDI services.
(iii) Such studies will be of much value for the libraries in deciding active Periodicals and also which should be weeded out from the live collection.
(iv) It will also indicate that not all the journals require durable binding. Only the journals which are frequently used should be bound with durable and costly materials.[5]
REFERENCES


