Chapter 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A systematic study of any subject warrants a detailed account of the earlier studies conducted in the field. A review of related literature in the field of study delineates the basic concepts, the research methods and procedures followed by earlier researchers and the inferences drawn by them in the related area. This chapter contains an overview of major studies relating to various aspects in the field of study.

Although a large number of studies have been conducted in the different aspects of social sciences, only relevant ones have been chosen. Here, studies relating to the structure and characteristics of social science information, sources of information in social sciences, documentation and bibliographic control of social science literature and bibliometric studies in social sciences are reviewed.

2.1 The structure and characteristics of social science information

A comprehensive study based on “The size, growth and composition of social science literature”, an analysis of the available statistics of serial and monograph publications in social sciences up to 1973 has been carried out by Maurice B. Line (1976) in connection with a wide ranging project concerned with the Design of Information Systems in the Social Sciences (DISISS).1 The serial title showed an exponential growth of 3.44 percent per annum between 1820 and 1970 with wide variances between periods and subjects. The average annual mortality rate of current titles was 5%, which shows the frequency of publications and their sources. The number of
articles and pages in serials increased significantly. There was a much more rapid growth in numbers of secondary services than primary serials and social science monographs experienced the greatest overall linear increase, but with huge variations between countries. Production by country shows a different rank order than serials but an even higher concentration of a few countries.

The study “Characteristics of social sciences information: A selected review of the literature” by H.P. Hogeweg de Haart (1981) outlines the various disciplines in nineteen European countries and in five international organizations or services which are considered to belong to the social sciences.² It describes the general characteristics of social science information, its sources, the flow of information, information retrieval and the use of social science information. The information seeking behaviour of the social science researchers is compared with that of researchers in science and humanities and also between researchers in various social science disciplines. The information requirements of the social science researchers are differentiated from those of both social scientists in a non-research environment and non-social scientists who could make use of social science information.

Harsha Parekh (1982) attempted a study on “Social science literature: Size, use pattern and bibliographic services” which reveals that analysis of social science literature has taken various forms viz., investigations into user needs, literary surveys, citation analysis, bibliometric studies of the growth of literature etc.³ The article highlights some general findings of selected studies in three areas namely (I) size and characteristics of social science literature (ii) literature use pattern by social scientists and (iii) use of bibliographic services.
The author concludes that no estimate of the size, growth and characteristics of social science literature in India in English and India languages had been made. Comprehensive international studies have include Indian literature in their analysis, but this had been acknowledgedly limited to select English language materials. Studies of literature use patterns by social scientists are scarce. While some studies of library use had been carried out, their limitations of scope and method restrict their utility and value to a considerable degree. Bibliographic services in the social sciences – abstracting journals, surveys of literature, union catalogues – which were non-existent forty years ago have been developed by the Indian Council of Social Science Research. But no feedback on their use and value is available. One only suspects that their limited scope, time lags poor arrangement and the quality of information included reduces their effectiveness.

In another study, Harsha Parekh (1990) enquires into the characteristics and types of literature used by the social scientists in India. The study is based on citation analysis and user surveys. It reveals that, in general, books seem to constitute the major form of literature used by social scientists in India. Periodicals occupy the next position, even though in certain subjects periodicals occupy the first place. The study also reveals that social scientists in India use Indian as well as foreign periodicals and their quantum of use vary from subject to subject. Most of the social scientists use English as their main language. Another feature is that they pick up references from a wide scatter of materials. A significant account of citations were from other than social sciences. However, patterns differ from subject to subject.
A similar study has been conducted by Arun Ghosh, (1990) which is intended to identify the various source materials used by the social scientists in contemporary India, to classify them according to their content and form and to cite selected disciplines within the domain of social sciences, interacting among themselves and also entering into other disciplines for understanding critical social issues especially in India situation. The author has identified certain forms of materials used by the social scientists, which include archival/ historical, geographical, quantitative / statistical, official / institutional, documentary/ / informative, visual / graphic, performing art, oral, etc. The content analysis of source material shows that the categories of materials used by them are encyclopedic, lexicographic / linguistic, bibliographic, philosophic, biographic, literary, folklore and tale, legal / legislative, religious, biomedical / technological. He concluded the study with the observations that each discipline of the social sciences is losing its autonomy and becoming more and more interdisciplinary. Non – conventional and non- traditional sources are being used to analyse critical issues, particularly to reconstruct the past where recorded evidences are scanty and unavailable. Besides, the social science research libraries and information centres have to develop a mechanism to identify the peripheral areas of its core subjects.

Hans Christoph Hobohm (1999) made an extensive search on the topic of social science and behaviour in most relevant information system. His finding is that since the investigation known as “Bath studies” undertaken by Maurice B. Line and others, there has been very little new research or even replication of the former studies in the field. Therefore, in a possible state of art one could state that there are no new findings since 1970 and would turn to other business.
He states that the information world has changed dramatically “after bath”. The seventies and eighties saw the development and spread of big databases. Online information systems were first considered as big magic boxes where one gets all relevant information just by pressing the button. This has turned out to be an illusion. Several studies revealed the limited effectiveness of online retrieval systems, and most of the studies on computer retrieval performance have been undertaken in natural sciences where conceptual and terminological problems are far less than in social sciences.

Hobohm also observed that social scientist generally build up their own information collection with a great variety of materials from conference papers to photocopied articles, pre-prints, research reports, books, and other general reference materials. Several studies on information seeking behaviour indicate the information seeking process always starts from the personal collection. As far as the social sciences and humanities scholar, it is considered the most important source of information. The reason for this is the convenience of use and the high degree of specialization sometimes reached by the social scientists. They considered these institutional libraries only as last resort for more expensive or seldom used material.

He further points out the new conceptions in information science and practice. With the amount of data increasing in databases, some new ideas have been developed in bibliometrics for social sciences. Discovering the importance of informal information channels, information science considered the concept of the user and proposed the enlarge the perspective of “information behaviour” to its context in the real world. Moreover, networking co-operation and international collaboration etc., have to be very much encouraged.
2.2 Sources of information in Social Sciences

Relating to social science information several studies have been conducted. One of the earliest studies is that of S.N. Lakshmi Narayana (1967) on Union catalogue of social science periodicals in India which deals with the bibliographic control of social science periodicals through union catalogue.\(^7\)

Another study based on social science periodical carried out by Aratikar (1972) also highlights the importance of periodical literature as a relevant source of information to the social scientists.\(^8\)

The ‘Malayala Granthasoochi’ edited by K.M. Govi, Vol.1 (1973) – Vol. 7 (1997) is a comprehensive bibliography of bibliography of books published in Malayalam from 1830 onwards, upto 1995.\(^9\) It covers almost all subject in Social Sciences, Sciences the Arts and Humanities. The books in social sciences are categorised under the headings Social Science, Education, Political Science, Law and Administration, Marxism, Socialism, Gandhi and Gandhism, Economics, Management, Geography and Travelogue, History of the world, History India and History of Kerala.

Volume and 2 of the Malayalam Granthasoochi are retrospective bibliographies and from the third volume onwards it covers the cumulation of five years. All the volumes have subject, author and title indexes. Since regional language bibliographies are scarce Granthasoochi proves to be a boon to information seekers.

Sudha Gambhir’s work is considered with Union catalogue of books published prior to 1920 in the field of social science (History, Political
Science and Economics) in the Hindu College Library and St. Stephen’s College Library (1977).\textsuperscript{10} She considered union catalogue as an important tool as far as social scientists are concerned. Since it deals with social science books published prior to 1920 it adds its value due to the scarcity of information source relating to that period. So this study assumes special significance owing to the period of study during which social science books were few and far between.

“Guide to reference materials” edited by A.J. Walford (1977) is an important bibliographic tool which consists of three volumes. The first volume deals with science and technology, the second with social and historical sciences and the third with generalities, languages, the arts and literatures.\textsuperscript{11} The subjects covered in the social and historical sciences are Philosophy and Psychology, Religion, Social Science, Statistics, Political Science, Economics, Law, Public Administration, Social Relief and Welfare Insurances Education, Commerce, Customs and Traditions Geography, Bibliography and History. It also covers atlases and maps, guide books and bibliography.

It is intended to provide a sign post to reference books and bibliographies published mainly in the field of social sciences. It is international in scope with some emphasis on items published Britain. The source book also provides an index of authors and titles at the end of the volume.

“Source in American legal history” by Parrish M. Jennifer (1983) offers information about sources of American legal history for the benefit of the legal historians and bibliographers.\textsuperscript{12} It suggests specific titles that are both interesting and readable which provide an overview of US legal history.
It discusses further sources such as standard bibliographies; journal literature; citation in books and articles and recommends interviews with Law Schools and History department faculty members, librarians in Law Schools, Universities and State Historical Societies.

Lisa Baker’s “Health care information sources: An annotated bibliography” (1983) is intended to provide a listing with annotation and publisher information of materials available in the area of health care law.\textsuperscript{13} Materials have been divided in the following categories: Reference and Statistics Sources, Accreditation, Anti-trust, Bioethics, Consent and Confidentiality, Contacts and Forums, Emergency Care, Health Maintenance Organizations, Health Planning, Hospital and Health Care Law, Hospital Management and Accounting, Labour, Medical Devices, Medical Staff, Trustees and Allied Health Professionals, Medi-care Reimbursement, the Mentally Disabled, Multi Hospital Systems, Preferred Provider Organizations, State Materials, Seminar Materials and Health-care Law Librarians.

J.F. Lilech brought to light the need for social science information as an indispensable domestic resource to be mobilized by planners, policy makers and managers. His article on “The provision of social science literature and information services in Kenya: Availability, accessibility, future prospects and problems” emphasized the national need for library and information services with reference to the Development Plan 1984-1988.\textsuperscript{14} Mention is made of the lack of a centrally coordinated establishment and development of library and information services in general, pointing to the fact that the growth and development of these were, to a large extent, a matter for individuals, institutions or organizations. The subject matter and scope of social science literature is outlined with reference to its potential
value and utilization. Reference is also made to the primary users of social science libraries including educators, trainers and trainees of administrative and management development subjects, businessmen and managers.

“Sources of information in the social sciences” by William H. Webb and others (1986) is a detailed source of information regarding social literature. It purports to be a comprehensive manual on the information seeking and use pattern of the social scientists, the wide variety of materials used by them.

In the article, “Flow of social science information and their dissemination technology”, Kundu and Sinha (1990) elucidate the social data used by social scientists such as legal records, statistics, newspapers, the published correspondence and memoirs of statesmen, annual reports, government records of all kinds etc. They incorporated subjects such as Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Economics and Geography in Social Sciences. The study brings out the various forms of documents used by the researchers such as books, periodicals, research reports, theses, newspapers, government publications, manuscripts, monographs, patterns, specifications etc. It also focuses on the various information services provided to the social scientists. The value of information, application of technology for information handling and factors affecting the information technology transfer is also emphasized.

D.L Sachadeva, and J.L Sardana, (1990) examine the information requirements of the social scientists and how far the documentary literature in the libraries cater the needs of the social scientists. The various documentary literature used by them are books, periodicals, monographs, reports of various kinds, theses and dissertations, conference proceedings
etc. The study is based on a survey undertaken in 1988 to assess the relevance of documentary literature to social scientists of two major central university libraries in the country namely the University of Delhi and the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The University-wise analysis of data shows that books are ranked at the first position and journals at the second. Reports/survey reports come at the third position down the line. The government documents and newspaper clippings are ranked fourth and fifth, but discipline-wise analysis shows that the order of preference is not the same. In all disciplines books rank first, but periodicals are preferred as second and report as third by the respondents in Economics and Political Science whereas reports take the second position and periodicals as third among the respondents in Sociology and Area Studies. Hence collection development policy should be based on kind of documentary sources needed by social scientists for research and study.

Christine Porter (1990) discusses the making of a new education tool for academic libraries.\(^\text{18}\) It shows how a video guide to information sources in education was developed. The increased use of resource based teaching methods along with greater number of mature and part-time students have led to an increasing need for research skills among students of education at all levels from initial teacher training upwards.

K.P. Vijayakumar, in his article “Information sources and services in social sciences” (1997), envisages the scope of social sciences and enumerates the major findings of the studies like INFROSS and DISISS on information use pattern of social scientists and the sources of information and services in the social sciences.\(^\text{19}\) The important sources relevant to the social scientists are categorized as primary sources comprising of
monographs, periodicals, research reports, standards, theses and dissertations, government publications etc.; secondary sources consisting of indexing and abstracting services, literature reviews, current digests, bibliographical, geographies and guide to literature are described. Significant titles under each category are enumerated. It also deals with institutional sources and computerized databases useful to the social scientists.

The article “IBSS Online: A specialist bibliography for social scientists” published in the virtual edition of Cheer (Computers in Higher Education Economic Review) by Caroline Shaw, the Editorial Manager of International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) (1998) highlights the networked services of IBSS Online which give electronic access to the full database of bibliographic records collected by the IBSS over nearly fifty years. It is a specialist social science service with a unique collection of internationally extensively bibliography records that should prove to be of use to researchers in most areas of the social sciences.

In “The Archives Hub: A new source for historical research” Hill, A (2002) points out that the aim of the Archives Hub (http:www.archiveshub.ac.uk) is to provide a comprehensive online gateway to information about the raw source material of history held in institutions of higher and further education throughout the UK. Participating libraries range from those with thousands of archive collections such as the Bodleian Library and Cambridge University Library, to those with fewer than ten. Over sixty one institutions are currently involved in submitting information about their holdings and they anticipated that by the end of 2003 over 20,000 collections will be covered by the service. Most of these descriptions have been created using funding provided by the Joint Information Systems
Committee (JISC) but a growing number have been produced by institutions which have not received any external funding. Archivists and librarians are compiling a detailed collection level description of their holdings for inclusion in the service. These descriptions usually contain the following elements: biographical information about the individual who created the archive or a history of the business or the organization, information of the record contained in the collection, information about the library or archive that looks after the collection, any restriction on access to the collection, and index terms which record key people, places and topics.

“Social Science literature in Malayalam: Annotated bibliography” by G. Devarajan (2002) is a major attempts to have a sound bibliographic control of social science literature in a regional language Malayalam. This work comprises a compilation of social science books published in Malayalam and the subject coverage includes Library Science, Psychology, Education, Geography, History, Political Science, Economics, Sociology and Law.

The document is divided into an introductory part, the annotated list of social science books comprising of 1852 entries and finally the author and subject indexes. Since social science bibliographies in Malayalam are few and far between this study deserves special mention being the pioneer effort in the field.

Bulu Maharana and K.C. Panda (2003) provide an insight into the concept of quality controlled subject gateway. They analyse 4,215 out of 19,765 records available in 19 major forms covering 17 broad subject headings namely Business, Economics, Education, Environmental Sciences, European Studies, Ethnology, Ethnography, Geography, Law, Philosophy,
Politics, Psychology, Social Science (General), Social Welfare, Sociology, Statistics, Women studies etc on the internet through Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG) website. The article discusses the growth, salient features, search facilities and subject wise collection of SOSIG.

“IASSIST bibliography of selected works” (2004) (1996) is an introduction to literature from the mid 1970s to the mid 1990’s which represents the work of the international social science data community. Several members of IASSIST (International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology) collaborated to produce this bibliography. The bibliography is compiled by selecting articles from the IASSIST quarterly Vol.1 (1977) – Vol 18 (1994) and articles published elsewhere; from other bibliographies, book, reports, collection of articles, special journal issues, conference and workshop proceedings.

2.3 Documentation and bibliographical control of social science literature

The growing need to make mastery over published and recorded material become so urgent due to the enormous flood of information. This accelerated the need for the publication of bibliographies and bibliographical services.

Sreenidhi Iyengar conducted a study on ‘Bibliographical services in the social sciences in U.S.A and U.K” in 1966 which portrays the various bibliographical services provided in the field of social sciences by private and public enterprises in U.S.A and U.K. Another study, “Bibliography of curricular and co-curricular university level Hindi books in Social Sciences” was conducted by Ved Kumar Chugh in 1970. The subjects included in the
social sciences were Economics, Education and Geography. This study focuses only on curricular and co-curricular university level Hindi books. A similar study had been carried out by Veena Ahuja (1970). Here, the subjects chosen as social sciences are Sociology, Anthropology and Psychology.

Keith Wright (1973) highlights the difficulties confronted with the storage and retrieval of social science information due to the peculiar characteristics of social science information. Problems of terminology in the social sciences such as lack of definition of the field as a whole, use of everyday words in reports and processes with varied meanings, much technical jargons etc. often put obstacles in the way of indexing, thesaurus construction and retrieval. The Education Resources Information Centre (ERIC) was started in 1966, in US to cater the need for better information exchange services between those engaged in the educational research, and other persons engaged in actual educational work throughout the country.

The study gives a brief description of the ERIC system which is made up of four parts: the Central ERIC, Clearing houses, the ERIC facility and the ERIC Document Reproduction Service. It also describes the ‘Report Resume’ and ‘Journal Article Resume’. Finally it points out the criticism levelled against the ERIC system like the problem of decentralization, quality of information abstracted, the problem of indexing vocabulary and thesaurus structure etc.

He concluded the study by stating the importance of the ERIC system in spite of its pitfalls. He suggests that social science information system must tolerate a wide spectrum of research and user technology so that centralization and increased technical competence of the indexing and
abstracting services could be achieved. Moreover the clearing houses could spend more time as ‘dissemination links’ with local and state educational users of the ERIC system.

Thelma Freides has (1976) attempted a study on “Bibliographic gaps in the social science literature.” The data are presented on coverage of books and US government publications by the bibliographic services of Psychology, Sociology, Political Science and Economics and two interdisciplinary bibliographies. Coverage of books ranged between 45% and 68%. Coverage of government publications was about 50%. Books which are reviewed are more likely to be listed than which are not. Coverage increases with the number of bibliographic services in the field, but so does duplication.

Gianwati Thakran (1980), in Growth and development of bibliographic services in social sciences in India and UK during 1970s” gives a detailed account of the development of bibliographical services in India and the United Kingdom and the types of services including compilation of bibliographies, indexing and abstracting services, documentation, preparation of union catalogues and lists Current Awareness Services etc.

“Bibliographical organization and control on Political Science with special reference to India” by Tapan Kumar Adak (1981), describes the need for bibliographic organization and control and the bibliographical services in the concerned field. It covers the compilation of bibliographies on various aspects of Political Science as well as on prominent statesmen. It also includes documentation on various Asian countries.
Another study on ‘Bibliographical organization and control on social science” was conducted by Asit Baran Dutta in 1981. It also stresses the need for bibliographical organization and control in social science, types or bibliographical services in social science and the bibliographical agencies in India and their services.

G. Devarajan, in his article, “Discipline linked regional bibliographies and bibliographic control of social science literature in India: Problems and prospects” (1982) states that area studies have an important role to play in national information service. It discusses the factors that necessitate discipline linked bibliographies and outlines the problems involved. It covers briefly national and international attempts made in the field. The article highlights a tentative proposal for the compilation of discipline linked regional bibliographies and suggests that India is keeping abreast of developments in the field of bibliographic control in the social sciences.

“Social Science Documentation Centre” by S.P. Agarwal (1985) projects the services carried out by Social Science Documentation Centre (SSDC). The SSDC, New Delhi which was set up in 1970 by the Indian Council of Social Science Research has a large collection of social science periodicals and basic reference works as well as unpublished theses and reports on social sciences. The SSDC is the Indian correspondent for international bibliographies in social sciences, and produces bibliographies of its own stock.

Raju, M.Mathew (1986) brought to light the importance of social science information and documentation. He says that since social science information and documentation centres supply data that are very important for development purposes, the third world countries should focus
considerable attention on it, possibly even at the expense of scientific and
technological information. One important pre-requisite is a high level
information literacy ultimately results in the emergence of an effective
information market. National government should take suitable measures to
establish an information infrastructure and invest heavily, while the world
community is called on to ensure the ‘Trans-border Data Flow’ and render
assistance to developing countries in organizing or improving their
information activities, education and training in information handling and
use and effective management and cooperation of information
infrastructures.

A. Ghosh (1991) reviews the sources of social science literature and
information currently published in India in the English language and details
the selective bibliographical tools for the bibliographic control of social
science literature in India. It notes the role of Indian Council of Social
Science Research (ICSSR) in the bibliographic control of social science
literature in India and appends a select list of publications relating to social
science bibliographic tools.

D.J. Farace and A.J. Marks, made an investigation on “The SWTL-
Project: The documentation of social science periodical literature” in 1991. It shows that the Social Science Information and Documentation Centre of
the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences inaugurated the SWTL Project to
provide on-line information service for articles from the Dutch social
science periodicals and research reports. The project grew out of the
Centre’s work producing ‘Periodicken Parade’, a monthly listing of contents
pages from social science journals, begun in 1973. To reduce the indexing
efforts the Centre has arranged with publishers to provide indexing in
source. The publishers welcomed the proposal as providing publicity for their journals.

S.D. Vyas (1992), in his work, “Social science information in India: Efforts towards bibliographic control”, points out the major social science information generating agencies in India such as state and central administrative bodies, academic institutions, individual researchers and resource personnel, international agencies etc. The development of social sciences in India and the growth of social science literature as a separate entity could be evinced only in the twentieth century.

The research activities and the development of various social science journals in India show the phenomenal growth of social sciences in India. With the proliferation of social science literature the need for documentation and bibliographical control became a necessity. As a result several social science documentation agencies sprang up in India. The study highlights the problems and difficulties in achieving bibliographic control of the social science literature. Yet the emergence of some of the Indian bibliographic tools such as ‘Index India’, ‘Documention on Asia’, ‘Indian National Bibliography’, ‘Indian Press Index’, ‘Guide to Indian Periodical Literature’, ‘Accession List: South Asia’ etc. tried to achieve this end.

The investigation on the coverage of Indian literature in social science bibliographic database on CD-ROM: Sociofile, Econ Lit, LISA and Psyc Lit by N. Parvathamma (1996) reveals that the coverage of Indian publications and Indian periodicals is only 0.5 percent and 1.16 percent respectively. Of the 626 Indian periodicals published in Sociology, Economics, Library and Information Science and Psychology, 489 (78.1%) periodicals are published in the Indian languages. Among these 489 English
periodicals, only 45(9.2%) are covered in the four bibliographic databases covering Indian literature in the above areas on CD-ROM and other computerized forms, preferably by private enterprises, to ensure promptness in publication and market oriented approach.

The article “Emergence of documentation activity in social science in India” by Jyoti Misra (1996) gives a closer look on documentation activities in the field of social science in India, especially that of the NASSDOC. The National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC) not only co-ordinates the documentation activities in India but also plays a vital role in networking by co-operating with APINESS at international level. The need for establishing a national information system in India is also emphasized. Besides, the author attempts to evaluate the ‘ICSSR Journal of Abstracts and Reviews: Economics’, published quarterly, which is considered to be the most important abstracting service for Economic literature in India.

2.4 Bibliometric Studies in Social Sciences

Application of mathematical and statistical techniques for quantification of knowledge gained momentum during the early 70s resulted in the emergence of bibliometric studies. In social science also some relevant studies emerged which are useful to this study.

A bibliometric approach to the social sciences was being carried out by W.Glanzel in 1996. In his paper “A bibliometric approach to social sciences: National research performance in 6 selected social sciences”, the author attempts the application of bibliometric methods which have originally been designed for the evaluation of national research performance
in hard and life sciences, to the bibliometric analysis of selected social science areas. The study is based on rough bibliographic data extracted from 1992 annual cumulations of the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), Philadelphia. The subjects included in Social Sciences are (1) Business (2) Economics (3) Psychology and Psychiatry (4) Sociology (5) Information and Library Science and (6) History and Philosophy of Science and Social sciences. The study reveals that in the publication of journals in all these 6 subjects USA, UK and Canada hold the leading positions. With regard to the geographical distribution of the cited articles also, these countries occupy the first, second and third places respectively.

K. Kishida and S. Matsui (1997) attempted a scientometric analysis of social science literature by using the machine-readable files of the IBSS 1988-1985. This is a comprehensive international bibliography in social sciences including Cultural Anthropology, Economics, Political Science and Sociology. Data used were 40313 monograph records in the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS). The study shows that a large number of monographs were published by a very small number of countries and in a very few number of languages. It discussed the relationship between the publishing country and the language used. Finally it examines the correlation among the number of published monographs GDP, population and the number of people attaining a university education. A regression model that incorporates GDP as explanatory variable explains well the variation of the number of monographs by countries.

In “Capitalizing on a past investment: Why we need bibliometric studies in social science literature again”, Patricia Layzellward (1999) describes a bibliometric study conducted in the 1970s (Project INFROSS,
Bath University), which examines the size and structure of the literature of social sciences. It recommends that the project should be replicated and indicates the benefits that could be gained from the earlier investment.

Diana Hicks (1999) made an investigation on the difficulty of archiving full coverage of international social science literature and the bibliometric consequences in 1999. She presents a review of social science bibliometric literature which seeks to establish characteristics of the social science literature and to understand their consequences for the coverage of literature databases and for interpretation of social science indicators based on such databases. It examines the main reasons why social science bibliometrics is problematical, namely, the centrality of books in social science literature and their high citation rate and the national orientation of social science literature. It also looks at reasons why social science bibliometrics holds increasing promises, namely increasing internationalization and good coverage of scholarly journals.

Nora Narvaez et al (2001) carried out a study on the world distribution of social science journals which determines the magnitude, scope and principle characteristics of the world periodical literature in the social sciences in 1991. To assess the relative influence of the developing countries in the publication of journals in these fields, the relation between the economic size of the different publishing countries and the main characteristics of the journals were used. Two different data sources were used for this purposes: The UNESCO DARE database which covers social science periodical literature worldwide and the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) which includes only mainstream literature.
The problem of bibliographic control of books, theses, research reports, proceedings and other types of grey literature so common in the social sciences is a complicating factor for the measurement of research productivity in these fields. As in the natural sciences, scientific articles are the mainstay of social sciences bibliographic databases, both nationally and internationally.

The analysis of 4326 periodicals in the social sciences included in the most recent 1991 printed edition of the UNSECO DARE database shows that 64% of the world’s production is published by High Income Economy countries (IEC). Only 0.7% of Low Income Economy Countries (IEC) journals in the Unesco database were also present in the Social Science Citation Index for the same year while corresponding figures of the Middle and High IEC were 2.3% and 97% respectively. With the notable exception of the United States, all countries have fewer journals in SSCI than in Unesco database.

Sami Gulgoz et al (2002) made investigation to find out Turkey’s output in social science publications from 1970-1999. For this purpose, publications originating from Turkey in Social Science Citation Index were analyzed for finding out the changes in the last thirty year span between 1970 and 1999.

The study reveals that publications in social sciences present a more difficult phenomenon to tackle because of a number of characteristics associated with these fields. In social sciences books maintain to be a major source of publication and they also receive a high rate of citation. Publications in scholarly journals constitute a small portion of scholarly production by social scientists although there seems to be a trend favouring
an increase in publication in journals. Another important characteristic of social sciences is their national orientation. The national orientation creates an obstacle for the presence of articles authored by researchers in Turkey in SSCI which is biased towards Anglo-American journals. Despite such obstacles, there have been claims of increase in publication rates from Turkey that are cited in the SSCI.

The analysis of the patterns of increase in the rate of publications show that there has been high rate of increase in the number of publications and most of these publications were in the form of articles and review papers. The rate of increase was lower than the increase in science publication but the ranking among other countries in sciences and social sciences were comparable. The analysis of impact factors and citations received by published work showed a decline across years. Many of the high impact publications were joint work with foreign authors.

Recently, S.L. Sangam and Kesava (2003) made an analysis of the growth pattern of literature in the social sciences in the six sub-disciplines viz., Anthropology, Economics, History, Psychology, Sociology and Political Science, derived from the CD-Rom version of the Wilson Social Science Abstracts for the period 1983-1998. The study is intended to explore the applicability of selected growth models in the world publications in these sub-disciplines of the social sciences and to determine the rate of growth of social literature by calculating the relative growth rates and doubling time for publications. They arrived at the conclusion that the relative growth rate, i.e., the increase in the number or articles per unit of time has shown a declining trend and consequently doubling time, i.e., the time required for the article to become double of the existing amount, has increased. Regarding subject-wise growth rate of articles, Psychology stands
first in publication followed by Economics and History. The coverage of Political Science literature is far less compared to other social science subjects.

2.5 Conclusion

In social science there are certain books and journal articles which focus on social science information sources, structure and characteristics of social science information, documentation and bibliographic activities, bibliometric studies etc. But there is hardly any bibliometric study on social science books. This may be due to the fact that bibliographic services in social sciences were non-existent until the last few decades. In India, bibliographic efforts in social sciences were started as result of the initiative taken by ICSSR. But most of these bibliographies are in English language materials only, excluding the plethora of materials published in regional languages. So the problem of bibliographic control of non-English language materials, especially books has become acute and urgent that may foster bibliometric studies of social science books in regional languages.
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