Chapter-5

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents a detailed discussion on the findings of the study and the conclusions drawn from these findings. A few areas for further research are also suggested.

5.1 Findings of the study:

1. Total 1965 articles have been analysed from ten electronic journals in English language during the period 2004-2012. Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP) journal published largest number of 711 articles and LIBRES : Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal the least number 71.

2. Some special issues were also published in the journals of Information Research- an international electronic journal (IR), Webology, Journal of Digital Information (JODI) and Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL) containing papers from conferences and on other special themes/occasions.

3. Out of total 1965 articles the contributions of single author were 936 (47.64%), and multiple authors 1029 (52.36%).

4. In the case of journal-wise contribution of single as well as multiple authors the analysis shows that Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL); LIBRES : Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal; Journal of Electronic Publishing (JEP); E-JASL : The Electronic Journal of Academic and Special Librarianship; and Webology, the contribution of single authors are more than multiple authors whereas multiple authors contributed more than single authors in South African Journal of Information Management (SAJIM); Chinese Librarianship : an international Electronic Journal (CLIEJ); Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP); Information Research- an international electronic journal (IR) and Journal of Digital Information (JODI).
5. 3607 contributors from 60 countries contributed these 1965 articles. The maximum contribution is made by authors from USA, (1141 contributors, 31.63%), which is followed by authors from Nigeria (594 contributors, 16.47%). India is at third place with 361 (10.01%) contributions. Next are South Africa-314 (8.71%), the UK-156 (4.32%), Spain-114 (3.16%) and Pakistan-110 (3.05%). Next 53 countries contribution is below 100 articles each.

6. On the basis of subject analysis, it has been found that 167 (8.50%) articles were published on the subject 'Information storage and retrieval-searching'. 112 (5.70%) articles were published on the subject of 'Librarianship and Information Science-Electronic publications'. Out of total subjects, only these two above mentioned subjects have more than 100 articles each.

7. The highest contribution of 11 articles each was by Akobundu Dike Ugah and Khalid Mahmood, whereas Rubina Bhatti and M. M. M. Snyman published 10 articles each. The highest number of 2643 contributors has been in favour of those authors who contributed one article each. Two authors contributed 9 articles each, three authors published 7 articles each and one author contributed 8 articles. Four and five authors contributed 6 and 5 articles respectively.

8. The analysis of institutional affiliation of the authors shows that the maximum numbers of articles were published by authors from Academic/Research Institutes/Colleges- South African Journal of Information Management (SAJIM), Journal of Electronic Publishing (JEP), Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship (ISTL), LIBRES : Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal, Chinese Librarianship : An International Electronic Journal (CLIEJ), E-JASL: the electronic journal of academic and special librarianship, Information Research- An International Electronic Journal (IR), Journal of Digital Information (JODI), Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP), Webology and its percentage is 74.39%. Second largest contribution is of authors from Library/Archive/Special library and its percentage is 14.11%. Lowest contribution is made by contributors from Information/Document Centers with 0.14%.
5.2 Conclusions:

On the basis of the analysis as well findings as envisaged above. The conclusion is drawn as:

1. The total number of articles published during the span of 9 years, are 1965. Library Philosophy and Practice (LPP) is the most productive journal. There is a wide variation in publication of articles in e-journal where LPP were contributed highest 711 and the least 71 articles were published in LIBRES: Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal.

2. There is a wide variation in the number of articles published during the period e.g. LPP has published 10 times the number of articles published in LIBRES.

3. In all the 10 journals the highest numbers of articles (345) were published in the year 2011, whereas the least number of articles i.e. 133 were published in 2004.

4. The single author (47.64%) contributions are slightly less than multiple authors contributions (52.36%).

5. Total numbers of 3607 authors of sixty countries contributed in these journals during 2004-2012. Largest numbers of contributors are from USA, followed by Nigeria and India.

6. Most prolific authors Akobundu Dike Ugah and Khalid Mahmood with 11 articles each.

7. Authors from Academic/Research Institutes/Colleges are largest contributors to these electronic journals (74.39%). Second largest contributors (14.11%) are from Library/Archive/Special library, while
least contribution is from authors from Information/Document Centers (0.14%).

8. On the basis of subject analysis, it has been found that highest number of articles (8.50%) were published on the subject 'Information storage and retrieval-searching'. This is followed by 'Librarianship and Information Science-Electronic publication' in which 5.70% articles were published.

5.3 Suggestions for further research:

The following suggestions are put forth to carry the research work forward:

1. Analysis of citations of electronic journals articles
2. Application of various Bibliometric laws to the electronic journal articles
3. Preparation of a ranked list of electronic journals in Library and Information Science
4. To find out the impact factor of those e-journals for which impact factor are not available
5. To develop a database of electronic journals article's searchable by subject and other parameters, such as author, title of journals, keywords etc.