# "CONTENT ANALYSIS OF PH.D THESIS IN LIS: A PRELIMINARY STUDY"
# (1992-2009)

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*Abstract : The present study analyzes the awarded PhD theses in Library and Information Science (LIS) submitted to Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University During the period 1992 to 2009. A total 43 theses were subjected to content analysis to study year-wise, language-wise, subject-wise, method of data collection and gender-wise distributions of research output. The year-wise analysis reveals fluctuating trends: productivity remained low during the 1990s but increased sharply in the 2000s, with peaks in 2002 and 2009 when seven theses were awarded each year. Subject-wise, University Library (16.27%) emerged as the most researched area. English was the dominant language of submission, reflecting its role as the primary medium of scholarly communication. Gender-wise distribution shows that male scholars (74.42%) were the majority, while female scholars (25.58%) contributed significantly, with increasing participation in later years. The study provides valuable insights into doctoral research trends in LIS at RTM Nagpur University and highlights subject domains and research patterns that can guide future scholarship and academic planning.*

**Keyword :** Content analysis, Ph.D. Theses, LIS research.

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## Introduction :

Doctoral theses represent the pinnacle of academic achievement, reflecting both individual scholarship and the evolving directions of a discipline. In Library and Information Science (LIS), doctoral research is particularly important as it contributes to the theoretical, methodological, and applied aspects of the profession. Content analysis of doctoral theses enables the mapping of research priorities, the identification of underexplored areas, and the evaluation of participation patterns across time, subjects, and demographics.

Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj (RTM) Nagpur University has played a significant role in shaping LIS research in central India. Between 1992 and 2009, the university awarded 43 PhD degrees in the subject. These theses cover both traditional areas such as cataloguing, indexing, and reference sources, and contemporary themes including bibliometric studies, networks, and websites, thereby offering a comprehensive view of LIS scholarship over nearly two decades.

Research in LIS is growing at a huge level today but to understand the nature of

research. It is necessary to analyze and evaluate the LIS research. Content analysis may help to analyze and understand the nature of research. Content analysis is a research method to analyze the text with a systematic and qualitative aspect. It's provide a method to evaluate the content, concept, theme, sentence, phrase, meaning and relationship etc.

"Content Analysis, a method which can be used qualitatively or quantitatively for systematically analyzing written, verbal or visual documentation goes back to the 1950's and the study of more communication" (White and Marsh 2006). Berlson (1952) defines, "Content analysis as, a research technique for the objectives, systematic and quantitative for the manifest content of the communication." Content analysis has been defined as "a research technique for making a replicable and valid inference from data to their content" Krippendroff (1980). Content analysis is a technique to analyze the content of any text via a various aspect.

Holsti (1969) "Content analysis is any technique for making inferences by systematically and objectively identifying specified characteristics of messages."

Chatterjee, Abhijit &Maity, Arabinda(2015 )also conduct a study on, "A study on Post-Doctoral researches in Library and Information Science in India." This study gives an overview research of library and information science. The researcher collected data from INDCAT, Vidyanidhi, and Shodhganga. This study found that most of the research was conducted in Bibliometrics followed by University libraries and information seeking behaviour.

## Objectives :

1. Analyzing the year-wise number of theses submitted to Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj University, Nagpur.
2. To analyse the broad areas of research subject wise.
3. To study the where in theses submitted have been relatively greater in number.
4. To find out the language-wise distribution of LIS Doctoral Dissertations.
5. To identify the methods used of data collection.
6. To find out gender-wise distribution of researchers.

## Research methodology :

For the present study the data is collected from all the Ph.D. theses will examined personally and it is data collected. Content analysis research method has been used for this study. The researcher analyzed the data using different aspects of their content, like: gender of researcher as well as of guide, submission year, methods used of data collection and subject wise.

## Data Analysis :

The researcher analyzed and evaluated 43 doctoral dissertations in LIS field. All 43 theses were analyzed using various aspects like: year of submission, the gender of the guide, the gender of researcher, subject wise, data collection method etc.

## Table: 1 Year wise submission of LIS Doctoral Theses

| Sr. No. | Academic Year | No. of Ph.D. Theses | Percentages |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 1992 | 1 | 2.32% |
| 2 | 1993 | 1 | 2.32% |
| 3 | 1994 | 1 | 2.32% |
| 4 | 1995 | 1 | 2.32% |
| 5 | 1996 | 1 | 2.32% |
| 6 | 1997 | 1 | 2.32% |
| 7 | 1998 | 2 | 4.65% |
| 8 | 2002 | 7 | 16.27% |
| 9 | 2003 | 2 | 4.65% |
| 10 | 2004 | 2 | 4.65% |
| 11 | 2005 | 4 | 9.30% |
| 12 | 2006 | 2 | 4.65% |
| 13 | 2007 | 4 | 9.30% |
| 14 | 2008 | 5 | 11.62% |
| 15 | 2009 | 9 | 20.93% |
| **Total** | | **43** | **100%** |

Most of the theses were submitted in 2009 i.e. 20.45% followed by 15.90% theses submitted in the year 2002. The lowest theses were submitted in the year 1992 to 1997 and 2010 (2.27%) each.

## Table: 2 Subject Distribution

| Sr. No. | Ph. D Subjects | No. of Ph.D. Theses | Percentages |
|---------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Cataloguing | 2 | 4.65% |
| 2 | Public Library | 3 | 6.97% |
| 3 | Patent | 2 | 4.65% |
| 4 | Indexing | 2 | 4.65% |
| 5 | University Library | 7 | 16.27% |
| 6 | College Library | 6 | 13.95% |
| 7 | Special Library | 3 | 6.97% |
| 8 | Information System | 5 | 11.62% |
| 9 | User Survey | 4 | 9.30% |
| 10 | Reference Sources | 1 | 2.32% |
| 11 | Grey Literature | 1 | 2.32% |
| 12 | Networks | 2 | 4.65% |
| 13 | Bibliometric Study | 3 | 6.97% |
| 14 | Information Centre | 1 | 2.32% |
| 15 | Websites | 1 | 2.32% |

It is evident from Table 2 that most of the research at Doctoral Level was

conducted on University libraries (i.e. 16.27%) followed by the areas such as College Libraries (13.95 %), Information System (11.62%) and User survey (9.30%). The bibliometric study, public libraries and Special Library were equally popular (i.e. 6.93%), among LIS researchers. Cataloguing, Patents, Library Networks (4.65%) Reference sources, grey literature and information centre i.e. 2.32%).

**Language-wise Distribution of LIS Ph.D. Theses :**

All 43 doctoral theses were in English language. Not a single researcher chose any regional language for their Doctoral theses.

**Table: 3 Distribution of Gender of Researchers**

| Sr. No. | Gender | No. of Ph.D. Theses | Percentages |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Female | 11 | 25.58% |
| 2 | Male | 32 | 74.42% |
| **Total** | | **43** | **100%** |

According to Table 4 that out of 43 Researchers, 74.42% researchers were male and female researchers were 25.58%.

**Table: 4 Method of Data Collection**

| Sr. No. | Method | No. of Ph.D. Theses | Percentages |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Questionnaire | 18 | 41.86% |
| 2 | Schedules | 03 | 6.97% |
| 3 | Observation | 43 | 100% |
| 4 | Interview | 05 | 11.62% |
| 5 | Experimental | 08 | 18.60% |
| 6 | Documentary Sources | 35 | 81.39% |
| 7 | Historical | 03 | 6.97% |
| 8 | Others | 30 | 69.76% |

The methods of data collection in research depend on types of research undertaken. Usually, more than one method of data collection was employed in order to substantiate the work. Table 5 reveals, the various methods followed in the data collection. Questionnaire method was used in 18 Ph.D. Theses.

**Conclusion :**

This study attempted to find out the popular research areas in LIS with reference to the doctoral theses submitted at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University till 2009. Content analysis was used to find popular research areas among researchers in LIS. The most popular research areas are university libraries and college libraries, apart from the two research areas Information systems, user surveys, public libraries, and Bibliometric study were also found to be popular for research at the doctoral level.

The present research revealed that different methods of data collection were used for the doctoral theses submitted to RTM Nagpur University in the subject of LIS.

This study revealed that the highest numbers of LIS theses were presented at the university in 2009, with the highest number of theses presentations in 2008 and 2002.

Also, the number of male researchers was much higher than that of female researchers. And the language of all theses was found to be English, not a single one of them was found to be in a regional language.

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