Discovering Australian LIS Research in Literature
Reference Databases

An important feature of research is the accumulation of new knowledge. While all
disciplines conduct research, Library and Information Science (LIS) constitutes an
interesting case. Not only is LIS involved in structuring and making accessible
knowledge from all disciplines, but LIS is also engaged in creating its own
disciplinary knowledge through research. While traditionally classification and
cataloguing provided access to the richness of available knowledge, a dominant
contemporary means for discovering primary material is through publisher and
aggregator literature databases.

This presentation examines the visibility of LIS research undertaken by Australian
LIS academics in eight databases. It uses a list of 382 LIS academics from Australia
who worked as academics for more than 2 years over the last 50 years. The eight
databases are: two Australian-specific databases, AEI+ and ALISA; three
international LIS-focused databases, LISTA, LISA and LLIS; and the three
multidisciplinary citation databases of ISI Thomson Scientific, SSCI, SCI and A&HCI.
Records of publications obtained through searching these databases were unified,
resulting in a list of 2,235 unique journal articles published by the 382 academics.

This extensive list of journal articles is then analyzed. This enables (1) tracking of
the number of articles published year by year and comparison of publication output
over time vis-a-vis the number of academics working in the field. (2) It provides
insight into changes in authorship patterns, such as the number of publications and
collaborations. Moreover, (3) journals Australians frequently publish in are
identified. Finally, (4) the varying degrees of coverage of Australian publications by
different databases are examined.

Results indicate, for example, the importance or journals with a national focus for
LIS in Australia. While Academics published in 233 different journals, national
journals seem to fulfill an important role for the local community. Forty-four percent
of all publications appear in national journals. Moreover, results question how
representative ‘productivity’ studies are when they rely solely on Thomson Reuters
databases.

In conclusion, this presentation provides an overview of the visibility of publications
by Australian LIS academics through different databases. It discusses the
discovered publications from different angles: over time, examining authorship
patterns, journals, and the visibility of Australian LIS research in different databases.
Discovering Australian LIS research in literature reference databases

Concepción S. Wilson, Sebastian K. Boell, Mary Anne Kennan, Patricia Willard
Method

• 382 Academics working more than 2 years in LIS

• Searched in 8 databases:
  • Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)
  • Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA)
  • Library Literature and Information Science (LLIS)
  • Australian Library and Information Science Abstracts (ALISA)
  • Australian Education Index (AEI)
  • Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)
  • Science Citation Index (SCI)
  • Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)

• Only research type articles
Journal articles over time
## Coverage of articles over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALISA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>692</td>
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<tr>
<td>LISA</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>1088</td>
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<tr>
<td>LISTA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>636</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEI+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSCI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>245</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHCI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLIS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>604</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Total unique publications per decade in all databases

|       | 11 | 169 | 677 | 816 | 559 | 2232 |

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Only found in one database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>% unique</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALISA</td>
<td>17.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>LISA</td>
<td>32.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>LISTA</td>
<td>26.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEI+</td>
<td>32.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSCI</td>
<td>13.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>16.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHCI</td>
<td>57.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLIS</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>49.7</strong></td>
</tr>
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# Overview of data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Share of all 2232 records</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Containing keywords</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Containing Abstracts</td>
<td>87.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start and end page (length)</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published in Australian journals</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published in international journals</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
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<td>Information on schools</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage period</td>
<td>1967-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of different Australian LIS authors</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Publications in national VS international journals over time (1967-2008)

Time period 1967 to 1974:
With exception of 1971 less than 10 papers per year!
No records from ALISA, AEI+, SSCI, SCI, AHCI, LLIS!
Records only from LISA (80%) and LISTA (20%).
Publications in national VS international journals over time (1975-2008)
Average number of publications per academic over time
Article length over time

Length in Pages

Research over time - Method

• Words used in titles as indicator of content of articles
• Using NVivo 9
  • Word frequency analysis excluding stopwords
  • Stemming filter to combine similar words
    E.g.: ‘library‘ and ‘libraries‘
• Visualise 50 most frequently used words within time period
  • The bigger the more often used
  • Proximity of words has no meaning
Research over time: 1967-1979
Research over time: 1980-1989
Research over time: 1990-1999
Research over time: 2000-2008
Acknowledgement

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