

The Dialogue through Bibliometric Lens: From 2006 to 2015

Saeed Ullah Jan^{*}, Abid Hussain^{**}, Muhammad Ibrahim^{***} &
Ishtiaq Khan^{****}

Abstract

Dialogue is a leading multidisciplinary journal being published by the Qurtuba University Peshawar, on quarterly basis. This journal publishes original articles, book reviews and views. The title, abstract, author's affiliation and collaborations, gender, subject matter, the date of publication, prolific contributors and references are used as information sources for bibliometric data collection. The primary investigation explore that there are 269 research articles and 16 book reviews and views. For the sake of convenience, only original research articles from 2006 to 2015 are designated for this study. The analysis shows that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is on the top regarding rate of publications in the specified period of time as compared to the rest of the provinces of Pakistan as well as abroad. The analysis of citation pattern shows that book is the more cited document in Dialogue. Dialogue has gradually upgraded its position through its global leadership as it has listed in leading indices of the world as an open access journal.

Keywords: Bibliometric, Research journal Dialogue, Thematic approach, Citation Pattern.

Introduction

Bibliometric is a quantitative approach towards the documentary flow of information. The main theme behind this attribute is to analyze the bibliographic data of documents. It is used to sum up

^{*} Dr. Saeed Ullah Jan, Assistant Professor, Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak. Email: saadullahjan2011@gmail.com

^{**} Abid Hussain, Assistant Librarian, Peshawar Medical College, Peshawar

^{***} Muhammad Ibrahim, Chief Librarian, Peshawar Medical College, Peshawar

^{****} Ishtiaq Khan, MS Scholar & PA to Dean / Visiting Lecturer at Department of Library & Information Science, Sarhad University of Science & IT, Peshawar

the scholarly contributions of research documents especially journals and scholars in specific areas and in certain geographical zones.¹ Bibliometric is a tool to examine the developments made in various areas of science and technology and is considered a joint instrument for systematic scrutiny.² Reitz presented the term 'bibliometric' in the following words:

*"The use of mathematical and statistical methods to study and identify patterns in the usage of materials and services within a library or to analyze the historical development of a specific body of literature, especially its authorship, publication and use. Prior to the mid-20th century, the quantitative study of bibliographic data and usage was known as statistical bibliography."*³

The word "Bibliometric" was coined by Pritchard in 1969.⁴ The first example of this nature of study was an analysis of the literature of comparative anatomy from 1543 to 1860, conducted by counting books and journal titles, and grouping them by countries of origin and periods. The second work was carried out by Hulme.⁵ This study was related to scrutiny of history of science. Another contribution in this field was made by Gross and Gross in 1927.⁶ They worked on the literature of chemical society. In Pakistan, Bibliometric is an emerging area of research in the field of LIS (Library and information Sciences). Many eminent library experts worked on this important segment.⁷ They have addressed Bibliometric analysis of various local and international journals belonging to various disciplines. Work has also been carried out on research productivity in the field of LIS and bio-Bibliometric.

Majority of the Bibliometric studies have been conducted on publications of other provinces of Pakistan and abroad other than Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This fertile land of research has been deserted from this important portion of enquiry for the last sixty eight years. The present work is an endeavor to conduct a study for the statistical analysis of Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized esteemed Journal "*The Dialogue*" published from Qurtuba University, Peshawar. Being a portrait of the journal, it will serve as an instrument for the promotion, quality and standardization of *The Dialogue*.

The Dialogue is a multi-disciplinary international research journal published by Qurtuba University of Science and Technology, Peshawar since 2006. The frequency of the Research journal *Dialogue* is Quarterly. The main aim of the research journal is to provide a global forum to the research scholar

community from the range of academic disciplines and to encourage debates, controversy and reflection.

The journal is already approved by the HEC Pakistan as category “Y”, International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) 1819-6462 and electronic ISSN 1819-6470. The journal editorial board consists of local and foreign scholars.

Previous work

Bibliometric is a magnifying lens through which the critical review of a research document is carried out. It acts like a portrait of a particular journal, thesis or other literary or research document. It has been a hot spot for scholars to conduct the evaluation research of different institutes and scholars from various angles. For example Qayum, Muhammad and Mirza Muhammad Naseer carried out Bio-bibliometric Study of Dr. Khalid Mahmood’s Contributions to LIS field in Pakistan.⁸ Here an attempt was made to elaborate the research contributions in various areas of Library Science by Dr. Khalid Mahmood to the field of LIS.

Oyedokun examined the activities of Agriculture scientists in Nigeria. It was pinpointed that the approach of the scientists in Agriculture research institute more decline technological development.⁹

Maharana conducted a bibliometric study of the research output of Sambalpur University’s publication. It was found that a total of 170 research papers published by 707 authors. It was reported that about half of the contributors were from Sambalpur University.¹⁰

Kumbar, Gupta and Dhawan examined a total 518 articles. It was reported that USA is the most celebrative country with half of the total publication.¹¹

Lochan Jena, Swain, & Bihari Sahu conducted the bibliometric study of the electronic library (2003-2009). This study proved to be a very helpful addition to the bibliometric literature.¹² Another bibliometric study on Malaysian journal of computer science was carried out from 1985 to 2007¹³. The study examined authorship pattern by degree of author collaboration. It was reported to be from .25 to .95.

Bibliometric study of Electronic journal of Academic & Special Librarianship revealed that India has contributed more as compared to the rest of the world in this prominent journal.¹⁴ It was reported that about 40% of the articles have no references.¹⁵

Bibliometric study of Journal of Information Literacy reflected that almost all the papers are from academic institution and individual research is higher than collaborative research.¹⁶

Objectives

- To determine year-wise distributions of articles
- To study the authorship pattern
- To analyze the gender-wise distribution of authors
- To find ranking of contributors/authors
- To study the length of articles
- To examine the theme of articles published in *The Dialogue*
- To study the citation pattern of articles
- To study the country-wise contribution

Material and Methods

This study was a multi-dimensional bibliometric approach towards the research productivity of an esteemed multi-disciplinary journal *The Dialogue*. Before getting started, consent of the chief editor was acquired through electronic correspondence. The main purpose behind the prior approval of the editor was to know whether this type of work has been done on this journal or in pipeline.

The title, abstract, author's affiliation and collaborations, gender, subject matter, the date of publication and references were used as information sources for bibliometric data collection. Efforts have been made to incorporate various Bibliometric laws for the sake of standardization and quality of the work.

All published research articles during 2006 to 2015 were selected for analysis. The primary investigation explore that there are 269 research articles and 16 book reviews and views. For the sake of convenience, only original research articles are designated for this study. Four articles of which the geographical affiliations of authors were ambiguous were verified from different online resources. Two articles were not indexed in the online version of *The Dialogue* but found in hard form which was incorporated accordingly. The data extracted were first entered into Excel spread sheets using built-in MS-Excel functions. The data filtered here then fed into the Software Package for Social Science (SPSS) for further refinement. The results derived were discussed and recommendations were made on the basis of the findings. Finally, conclusions were drawn for the sake of brevity.

Analysis of Data

Table 1: Nature of articles Published in Dialogue

Year	Original Articles	Book Reviews & views	Total	Percentage
2006	24	7	31	10.88
2007	21	4	25	8.77
2008	25	2	27	9.47
2009	25	1	26	9.12
2010	25	0	25	8.77
2011	27	0	27	9.47
2012	24	2	26	9.12
2013	35	0	35	12.28
2014	30	0	30	10.54
2015	33	0	33	11.58
Total	269	16	285	100
Percentage	94.39	5.61	100	
Average per year	26.90	1.60		

The analyses of table 1 show that majority of published documents are original articles. A few are book reviews and views, the year of 2013 proved to be the more productive era following by 2014. The year 2007 is the year in which less number of articles had been published. There is a little gap among rate of year of publication chronologically. Pareek conducted a bibliometric of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Journal during 2001-2010 it was revealed that 2001 is the more productive year of this journal where as 2008 is the year where minimum papers were published.¹⁷

Table 2: Gender of First Author

Gender	Frequency	%age
Male	230	85.50
Female	39	14.50
Total	269	100

The analysis of Table 2 shows the gender of principle/First authors. Majority of the contributors in this journal are male. Only a small fraction of researchers are female.

Table 3: Length of Articles

Years	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	51 Plus	Total	%
2006	3	5	13	1	1	1	24	8.92
2007	3	2	10	4	1	1	21	7.81
2008	2	13	5	5	0	0	25	9.29
2009	0	10	10	5	0	0	25	9.29
2010	6	13	6	0	0	0	25	9.29
2011	5	17	5	0	0	0	27	10.04
2012	6	14	3	1	0	0	24	8.92
2013	10	24	1	0	0	0	35	13.01
2014	5	21	4	0	0	0	30	11.15
2015	7	25	1	0	0	0	33	12.27
Total	47	144	58	16	2	2	269	100
%	17.47	53.53	21.56	5.95	0.74	0.74	100	

The year of 2013 proved to be more productive followed by 2015. It is also noteworthy that about half of the published articles are of 11 to 20 pages. Articles of length more than 40 pages are minimal.

Table 4: Authors pattern

Years	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Total	Percentage
2006	24	0	0	0	0	24	8.92
2007	18	2	1	0	0	21	7.81
2008	21	3	1	0	0	25	9.29
2009	18	4	2	1	0	25	9.29
2010	18	5	1	1	0	25	9.29
2011	18	5	4	0	0	27	10.04
2012	14	8	2	0	0	24	8.92
2013	16	13	2	4	0	35	13.01
2014	14	10	4	2	0	30	11.15
2015	5	15	9	3	1	33	12.27
Total	166	65	26	11	1	269	100
Percentage	61.71	24.16	9.67	4.09	0.37	100	

Authorship pattern reflects the interest of professional in specific areas. It is reported from the analysis of table 4 that about two third of the total publications are written by single authors, followed by two authored articles. Poly author trend is not in practice in this esteemed journal.

Table 5: Geographical Affiliation of first Author

S.No	Zones/Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	%
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	23	19	17	18	17	17	8	18	16	18	171	63.57
2	Punjab	0	0	0	0	1	3	6	4	5	10	29	10.78
3	Islamabad	0	1	1	2	4	3	1	3	4	3	22	8.18
4	Sindh	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	6	2	1	17	6.32
5	Baluchistan	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	6	2.23
6	AJ&K*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.37
7	India	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	1.49
8	Malaysia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.37
9	Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.37
10	United Kingdom(UK)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.37
11	No Geographical Affiliation	1	1	5	3	3	1	0	0	2	0	16	5.95
Total		24	21	25	25	25	27	24	35	30	33	269	100
Percentage		8.92	7.81	9.29	9.29	9.29	10.04	8.92	13.01	11.15	12.27	100	

*Azad Jammu and Kashmir

A query was asked about the geographical affiliation of the first author in this esteemed journal. It is reported that Pakistan is on the top of publications followed by India. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the North-West Frontier Province of the country has clinched first position followed by Islamabad and Punjab. It is also noted worthy that sixteen articles have been published without the geographical affiliation of the authors. The research scholars of Malaysia, Belgium and U.K had contributed equally by publishing one paper each.

Table 6: Citation Pattern of Articles

Year	Journals	Books	Thesis	Web/URL	Newspaper	Conf/Semi	Speeches	Reports	interviews	Others	Total	Percentage
2006	186	373	2	63	108	4	12	23	1	76	848	9.41
2007	89	244	3	61	174	1	9	39	0	51	671	7.45
2008	64	401	10	59	28	2	1	57	1	32	655	7.27
2009	63	704	1	55	48	2	9	16	0	35	933	10.36
2010	103	467	14	16	54	3	37	26	16	20	756	8.39
2011	134	576	4	62	38	3	4	28	4	38	891	9.89
2012	145	520	2	132	76	0	4	19	13	26	937	10.40
2013	341	667	17	128	28	2	16	29	2	31	1261	14.00
2014	256	499	5	61	129	5	6	78	38	76	1153	12.80
2015	225	449	3	72	67	9	0	45	12	21	903	10.02
Total	1606	4900	61	709	750	31	98	360	87	406	9008	100
Percentage	17.83	54.40	0.68	7.87	8.33	0.34	1.09	4.00	0.97	4.51	100	

Citation pattern of articles is considered an integral part of bibliometric study. An effort has been made to evaluate citation pattern of articles in Table 6. The analysis reflects that citation from books is more quantity as compared to rest of the documents. More than half of the cited documents were books. Citation from

Journals is the second more cited document. Thesis, Web resource, News Papers, Conference Proceeding, Speeches, Reports and Interviews have also been cited in the research articles of this standard Journal.

Table 7: Top 9 Most Prolific Contributors

S. No	Ranking	Name of Combater	Number of contribution	Country	Affiliation
1	1	Dr. Qader Bakhsh Baloch	14	Pakistan	Qurtuba University, Peshawar
2	2	Prof. Dr Muhammad Saleem	08	Pakistan	Qurtuba University Peshawar
3	=2	Javed Iqbal Shah	08	Pakistan	A PAF Officer/ Freelance Writer
4	3	Zamir Akhtar Khan	07	Pakistan	University of Peshawar
5	4	Khalil-ur-Rehman	05	Pakistan	Qurtuba University Peshawar
6	=4	Muhammad Farooq	05	Pakistan	University Of Peshawar
7	5	Dr. Muhammad Nazeer Kakakhel	04	Pakistan	Qurtuba University Peshawar
8	=5	Mahmood Ahmad	04	Pakistan	Qurtuba University Peshawar
9	=5	Dr. Attar Rabbani,	04	India	University of Mumbai

Varies eminent scholars contribute in this HEC recognized journal. It is difficult to mention all of them here by name. An endeavor was made to rank the top contributors by name. Dr. Qader Bakhsh Baloch ranked first by publishing 14 research papers followed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem and Javed Iqbal Shah of Pakistan having 8 papers each. Amazing is to note that among top nine contributors five belong to Qurtuba University of Science and Technology, which show rich Research culture in this prestigious university.

Table 8: Thematic Approach of Articles

S.No	Theme	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Percentage
1	Agriculture	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.37
2	Biography	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.37
3	Child Labour	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.74
4	Economics	0	0	2	2	4	1	2	2	4	2	19	7.06
5	Education	1	1	3	4	6	3	3	7	7	8	43	15.99
6	Foreign Policy	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	3.35
7	Human Rights	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	5	1.86
8	International Aid Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.74
9	International Relations	10	5	5	1	0	2	5	2	5	3	38	14.13
10	Inter Faith	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.37
11	Islamic Study	5	2	5	4	2	5	1	3	1	3	31	11.52
12	Language	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	7	2.60
13	Law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.37
14	Leadership	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	5	1.86
15	Literature	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	5	2	0	12	4.46
16	Management	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	8	2.97
17	Media	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.74
18	Pakistan Nuclear Program	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.37
19	Pakistan Study	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	1.12
20	Philosophy	2	0	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	18	6.69
21	Politics	2	3	2	2	5	3	2	4	1	1	25	9.29
22	Psychology	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	9	3.35
23	Public Health	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.37
24	Racism	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.74
25	Refugee Program	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.74
26	Social Study	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	1	1	2	11	4.09
27	Sufism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.37
28	Terrorism	0	1	0	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	9	3.35
Total		24	21	25	25	25	27	24	35	30	33	269	100
Percentage		8.92	7.81	9.29	9.29	9.29	10.04	8.92	13.01	11.15	12.27	100	

The analysis of table 8 reflects that more articles have been published in the areas of Education (15.99 %) and International Relations (14.13 %) followed by Islamic Studies (11.52 %) and politics (9.29 %) efforts have been to summarize the whole.

Findings of the study

The findings unveiled from the analysis of the above data, can be summarized in the following words:

- The statistics of Table 1 reflects that 2006, 2013, 2014 and 2015 are proved to be the more productive years in the life

span of *The Dialogue*. The years 2007 and 2010 are tabulated as less productive.

- Male contribution is more dominant over female. The average lengths of articles are reasonable i.e. from 11-22 pages as per analysis report.
- It was also analyzed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is on the top regarding rate of publications in the specified period of time as compared to the rest of the provinces of Pakistan as well as abroad. The contributions of foreign scholars are next to nil.
- The analysis of citation pattern showed that book is the more cited document in *The Dialogue* from 2006 to 2015. Citations from journals are reported as second more cited source.
- Dr. Qader Bakhsh Baloch is the more prolific contributor and have clinched first position by publishing more research papers in this esteemed HEC recognized Journal.
- It was also revealed that Education and International Relations (I.R) are the two most prominent disciplines of *The Dialogue*. Islamic Studies and Politics are also the subjects addressed by the contributors more frequently.

Conclusions

The study has depicted a finicky portrait of *The Dialogue*. This venerated journal has maintained its esteemed status in the academic circle by publishing quality literature due to the standard editorial policy. The publications of this journal are highly appreciated by teachers, contributors and students. Dialogue is proved to be a leading journal publishing quality multi disciplinary research papers. The study reveals that majority of the authors have preferred books as a source of information followed by journals. The contributors of Khyber Pakhtunhwa have played a dominant role by publishing more research articles as compared to the rest of the world. The disciplines of Education and International Relations have been addressed more by the researchers than other field of knowledge.

The Dialogue has gradually upgraded its position through its global leadership as it has listed in leading indices of the world as an open access journal. It is expected that *The Dialogue* will further grow its stature in the days ahead.

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