SEKITAR PERPUSTAKAAN 2004-2005: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY USING CITATION ANALYSIS

By

Nasimah Badaruddin
Institut Latihan Islam Malaysia

Abstrak

This study is conducted based on the references of 8 articles published in two issues of Sekitar Perpustakaan covering volume 38, 2004 and volume 39, 2005, which accounted for 80 citations. The data relating to all references appended to all articles including authorship such as single or multiple authorship; language preference of citations in articles written in this journal; and forms of materials being cited by the authors in producing their articles were compiled, recorded, tabulated, studied and analysed for the purpose of making observations as indicated in the objectives of this study.

1. INTRODUCTION

Citation analysis has been a formative mechanism of scientometrics as a subject of study for several decades. Citation analysis also is a systematic and quantitative study of work cited. Most of the bibliometric studies using citation analysis involve journals as the unit of analysis. White and McCain (1989) signify the reasons which influence this situation as the consideration of the role of journal at the same time as a major communication means in research findings. Furthermore, they mention that there are also a large proportion of material budget in research library devoted to scholarly journal and other periodicals.

Citation analysis may involve certain areas of study as mentioned by Baldi (1998) and Borgman (2002) whose determine the most significant part including format of cited document and number of authors of cited documents. While Peters and Van Raan (1994) brought up areas including language of the cited papers.

The author has chosen the journal published by Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, Sekitar Perpustakaan, as the source document in this study. This paper will emphasize on the citation analysis of scholarly communications of the articles published in Sekitar Perpustakaan volume 38, 2004 and volume 39, 2005.

SEKITAR PERPUSTAKAAN IN BRIEF

Sekitar Perpustakaan is one of the earliest professional journals in field of Library and Information Science published by Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia. The first issue of Sekitar Perpustakaan was called Sekitar, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia which was published in May, 1977. This publication started as a newsletter disseminating information of members who are staff of the library (Tiew, 2006).

Sekitar Perpustakaan was published regularly from issue Number 1, May 1977 to Number 12, January 1981. The publication was issued irregularly at times, which is one issue per year, bimonthly or five issues per year. From 1994-2003, Sekitar Perpustakaan was published twice a year. However, from 2004-2005 it was only published once a year. Even though Sekitar Perpustakaan seems to
be behind time according to its publication schedule, it is still much alive since the department gain full financial support from Malaysian Government to come out with the publication.

The major problems in publishing this journal is lack of contribution of articles from practicing librarians or interested parties from inside and outside the Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia. However, to prevail over this problem the Publication Division, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia has made an effort to request articles from all practicing librarians from all types of libraries as well as academicians from all universities to contribute for this journal. Sekitar Perpustakaan is a circulated limitedly to all public libraries and special libraries in Malaysia. It is also given to academic libraries and individuals upon request. Besides, this journal is circulated as gift and exchange for all national libraries around the world. At present, Sekitar Perpustakaan has been the medium in publicizing information concerning Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia including the library development at national and international level (Ku Rohana, 2007).

OBJECTIVES

This paper attempts to survey and investigate citations of the articles published in Sekitar Perpustakaan 2004-2005 which will emphasize on:

a) the authorship patterns
b) the language preference of citations
c) the forms of materials being cited by the authors in producing their articles.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

A total 80 citations were collected from two issues of Sekitar Perpustakaan during 2004-2005. These citations stand as the source data for the citation analysis. Interpretation of the data taken were analysed under following headings:

a) Authorship Patterns

The study of authorship patterns of the citations may assist researchers to identify the most productive contributions for each topic. For this purpose, the information about the authors was retrieved, arranged and tabulated in order to find out the type of authorship. Therefore, the authors were analysed in determining the frequencies of single, double, three, more than three or corporate authors. A clear picture of results of the analysis is presented in Table I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Single author (a)</th>
<th>Two authors (b)</th>
<th>Three authors (c)</th>
<th>More than three authors (d)</th>
<th>Corporate authors (e)</th>
<th>Multiple authorship (b)+(c)+(d)+(e)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table I: Authorship patterns
It is identified from Table II that single authoring in the journal vogue, with 46 forming 57.5 per cent of the total number of citations of cited articles. Corporate authors contribution ranked second highest with 18, forming 22.5 per cent of the total. In other words, it seems that the authorship pattern of cited articles published in Sekitar Perpustakaan indicated single author slightly outnumbered multiple authors. This was consistent with study completed by Cline (1982) who found that a large number of articles published in College and Research Libraries covering the period of 1939-1979 had no co-authors. This is moreover similar with the findings by Raptis (1992) which indicated majority of articles which is 86.46 per cent published in five library and information science periodicals had no co-authors.

b) Language Preferences

This study shows the most dominant language in which the literature on the subject discussed is cited in the journal. This information is useful for researchers as well as librarians which may support in developing the library’s collections.

Table III illustrates the language preferences of 80 citations. English language was found to be the most dominant language as 58 citations which constitute 72.5 per cent were published in English language. It is not surprising since most of the information bearing entities in the field of library and information science are published in English language. The second language preferences of the citations are Malay language in which 22 citations constituting 27.5 per cent were found from the analysed citations. This situation may be present as a result of Malay language being the medium communications in Malaysia and the authors understand better the content of the articles being cited. From this study also it is found that English is the dominant language in the field library and information science.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorship Pattern</th>
<th>Frequency of Citation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single author</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two authors</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three authors</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than three authors</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate authors</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table II: Single vs. multiple authorship patterns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table III: Language preferences distribution.
c) Forms of Materials Distribution

Books, journals, conference papers, acts, reports and online sources are the various forms of documents cited in the journal. The information regarding the form was collected from the source data and tabulated to find out the most dominant form of literature in which the information is cited. This study will be helpful for information scientist, librarians and researchers to know the most dominant form in which the information was being cited for the articles according to particular subject written.

Table IV presents form materials distribution of citations and shows that 39 citations out of a total of 80 citations are journal articles. It forms about 48.8 per cent of the total. This is followed by other forms such as books (22.5 per cent), online sources and reports (10 per cent), conference papers (5 per cent) and Acts (3.7 per cent).

This analysis clearly shows that most papers are written by consulting journal articles as the most dominant form of documents. In other words, journal articles are the most inspiring source among the librarians and academicians engaged in the field of library and information science. It is also observed that professional journals are currently published with updated information and being a major communications channel for research findings. This analysis may assist librarians in making policy decisions regarding the acquisition of relevant journals to facilitate librarians and scholars as well as researchers in this field.

CONCLUSION

From the study conducted, it may be concluded that:

- The authorship patterns of cited articles in Sekitar Perpustakaan during 2004-2005 indicated single authorship outnumbered multiple authorship which forming 57.5 per cent.
- English language is found to be the most dominant language preferences of the citations which constitute 72.5 per cent.
- Journal articles are found to be the most dominant forms from which the citations were being cited forming 48.8 per cent of the total.

The author would like to indicate study done by Smith (1981) who has listed a basic assumptions which underlying citation analysis in general. Those assumptions include citation of a document implies use of
that document by citing authors; citation of a document (author, journal, etc.) reflects the merit (quality, significance, impact) of that document; citations are made to the best possible works; a cited documents is related in content of the citing documents; and all citations are equal.

As a researcher an individual should not overlook of any citations in conducting a study on any topics since all the citations hold its value as mention by Smith. Seeing that as a Muslim one is responsible for any action which has been taken under his supervision. Allah has clearly stated in the Quran:

"Say: should I seek any but Allah for God, when He is the Lord for all things? Each man shall reap the fruits of its own deeds; no soul shall bear another’s burden. In the end you shall all return to Lord, and He will inform you that in which you differed."

Al-An’am 6:164

Throughout this study the author would like to express that Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia has made their effort in improving the quality of the department’s publication. After 30 years being published as the official journal, Sekitar Perpustakaan has improved their quality of publication since it was published.

However, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia should promote this journal and make itself visible to the outside world through international indexing and abstracting agencies to cover this journal and make it well known to others who’s interested in the field of library and information science. Moreover, it is not only promoting and publicizing the information enclose in the journal but it may demonstrate the image of Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia and Malaysia in a global view.
REFERENCES


