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Mapping the Intellectual Landscape of Library and Information Science: A Bibliometric Analysis using Dimensions.ai

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Abstract:

Library and Information Science (LIS) research remains fragmented, with studies often focusing on isolated components. This study addresses that gap through bibliometric analysis of articles from Dimensions.ai (2016–2024) using VOSviewer.

Results reveal an 80% increase in publications, from 13,677 in 2016 to 24,649 in 2024, peaking at 24,943 in 2020. Key authors include Mike A. Thelwall (332 articles) and Loet A. Leydesdorff (245 articles, averaging 72 citations each). Harvard University leads in output (46 articles), while Leiden University and Scientometrics excel in citation impact (17,963 and 229,901 citations, respectively). The United States dominates contributions, reflecting dynamic collaborations in LIS.

***Keywords**: Bibliometrics; Dimensions.ai; Library and Information Science; Research Trends; Network Analysis.*

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- INTRODUCTION

Library and Information Science (LIS) is a rapidly evolving field, yet existing bibliometric studies have often been fragmented, focusing on individual journals, regional research outputs, or doctoral theses. This has resulted in a lack of comprehensive mapping that captures the broader intellectual landscape of the discipline. To address this gap, this study employs **Dimensions.ai**, a large-scale academic research database that aggregates over 152 million publications and 4 billion references, offering advanced bibliometric tools through a domain-specific query language and API for data retrieval and analysis.

This study employs bibliometric techniques to analyze publication trends, citation metrics, and collaboration patterns, with the aim of identifying key research themes and evaluating scholarly impact. To enhance visualization and network analysis, we utilize **VOSviewer**, a widely recognized software tool for constructing and interpreting bibliometric maps, which enables the identification of co-authorship networks, keyword co-occurrences, and thematic clusters.

The structure of this paper is as follows: The **literature review** synthesizes previous bibliometric studies in LIS and highlights existing research gaps. The **methodology section** details data collection from Dimensions.ai and the analytical techniques employed, including network analysis using VOSviewer. The **results and discussion** present key findings, offering insights into LIS research trends, influential authors, institutions, and journals. Finally, the **conclusion** summarizes the contributions of this study and provides recommendations for future bibliometric research in LIS.

Statement of the Problem

Bibliometric studies are vital for understanding the intellectual structure and evolution of Library and Information Science (LIS). However, existing research is generally fragmented, focused on certain journals, dissertations, or national outputs, and relying mostly on conventional databases like Scopus or Google Scholar. This

has limited the development of a broad, worldwide perspective on LIS studies. In addition, advanced systems such as Dimensions.ai, which provide scalable, cross-disciplinary data and extensive analytical capabilities remain underutilized. Similarly, while tools like VOSviewer are recognized for mapping collaborations and thematic structures, few studies have deployed them on big, multi-source datasets to reveal global research patterns and emerging trends in LIS. This study overcomes these shortcomings by combining data from Dimensions.ai and performing network analysis with VOSviewer to conduct a full bibliometric analysis. The purpose is to provide a more nuanced view of research productivity, collaboration, and topic evolution in LIS during the previous decade, thereby shaping future academic, policy, and research orientations.

Research Questions

1. What are the primary research themes and emerging topics in LIS over the past decade?
2. Which nations, institutions, and authors have contributed most significantly to LIS research globally?
3. How are research themes and scholarly collaborations structured within the LIS field?
4. What are the most influential publications, authors, and sources based on bibliometric indicators?

Research Objectives

1. To map the global LIS research environment using data from Dimensions.ai covering the past decade.
2. To uncover major thematic patterns and upcoming issues through co-word and thematic analysis.
3. To evaluate scholarly collaboration trends across nations, institutions, and authors using VOSviewer.
4. To analyze the impact of LIS research using classic and alternative bibliometric metrics.

Importance of the Study

This study increases the understanding of worldwide research trends, collaboration patterns, and influential contributions in Library and Information Science (LIS) by employing advanced technologies like Dimensions.ai and VOSviewer. It overcomes the constraints of earlier, narrowly focused studies and provides significant insights for researchers, institutions, and governments to guide future research, interaction, and strategic planning in the LIS area.

1. Literature Review

Bibliometric analysis has become essential for mapping the intellectual landscape of Library and Information Science by quantifying research productivity, collaboration patterns, and emerging scholarly trends. Despite numerous studies focusing on individual journals, doctoral thesis, and regional research production, an integrated analysis leveraging advanced tools remains lacking. This review synthesizes previous bibliometric investigations, identifies key research gaps, and emphasizes the value of innovative platforms such as Dimensions.ai.

Journal-Based Studies

A substantial portion of the literature has concentrated on individual LIS journals. For example, (1) analyzed the *Annals of Library and Information Studies* (2016–2020), focusing on issue-wise publication distribution, collaboration patterns, and variations in article characteristics. Similarly, (2) investigated the *Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science (JALIS)* over the same period, reporting a publication peak in 2017, a high degree of co-authorship, and prominent research topics such as bibliometrics and electronic resources. In another study, (3) examined 190 contributions in the *Annals of Library & Information Studies*, revealing a predominantly multi-authored production with strong representation from Indian scholars. Complementary investigations by (4) on *World Digital Libraries* and by (5) on the 100 most-cited articles in *Library Philosophy and Practice* further underscore the significance of

citation impact and subject-specific trends in the field. Moreover, studies focusing on the *Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice* (JISTaP) by (6) and (7), as well as the comparative analysis by (8) on DESIDOC and SRELS journals, illustrate the diverse methodological approaches employed to map journal-level contributions in LIS.

PhD Thesis Studies

Doctoral research outputs represent a critical, yet less explored, dimension of LIS scholarship. (9) conducted a bibliometric study of 28 Ph.D. theses from Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University spanning 1995–2018.

National and Regional Studies

A considerable body of work has also focused on the national and regional dimensions of LIS research. (10) and (11) investigated research trends in India, identifying publication peaks in 2018 and 2019, respectively, along with high degrees of collaboration and international co-authorship. In Pakistan, (12) provided a comprehensive review of 62 years of LIS research, highlighting key institutions and regional disparities. Similarly, (13) mapped the output of South African LIS research, while (14) examined research in the Arab world—both studies underscoring emerging topics such as digital libraries and research data management. Furthermore, (15) traced the evolution of Spanish LIS research over four decades, documenting significant increases in overall production, co-authorship, and international collaboration. (16) extended this analysis globally by examining LISR papers, emphasizing the international spread of research and variations in citation impact across countries.

Research Gaps

Despite the wealth of insights provided by previous bibliometric studies, several critical gaps persist. First, many investigations rely exclusively on a single data source—such as Scopus or Google Scholar—thereby limiting the comprehensiveness and depth of their analyses. Second, although individual journals and regional outputs have been examined in detail, there is an urgent need

for an integrated, multi-dimensional mapping approach that not only tracks the evolution of research topics over time but also reveals the complex interrelationships among emerging research clusters. Third, most prior studies have predominantly employed traditional bibliometric tools; however, the advent of advanced platforms like Dimensions.ai offers the potential to incorporate machine learning and network analytics, providing a far more nuanced understanding of the field's intellectual structure. Finally, while several national and regional analyses exist, there remains a notable paucity of studies that synthesize global trends across multiple regions—a perspective that is essential for fully comprehending the international dynamics of LIS research.

Value Added by the Current Study

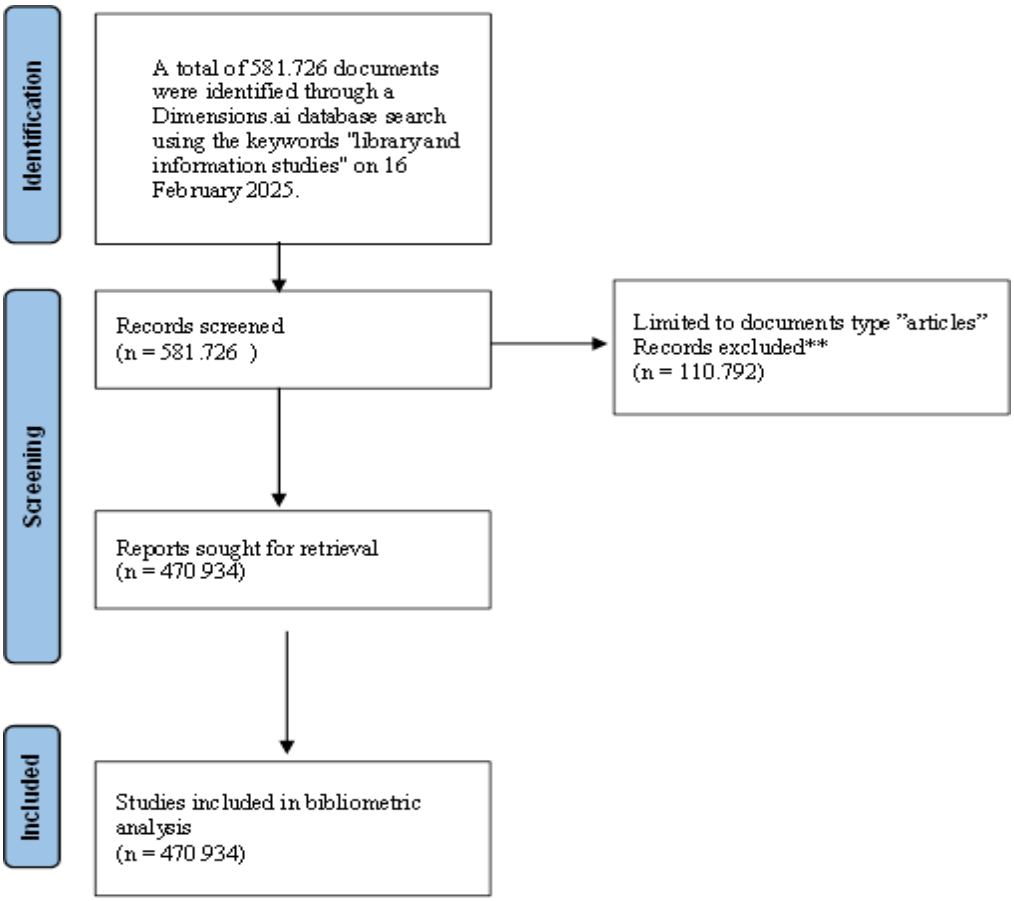
The present study seeks to address these shortcomings in several meaningful ways. By leveraging Dimensions.ai, our research integrates traditional bibliometric indicators with advanced network mapping and machine learning techniques; thereby offering a more sophisticated and nuanced depiction of the intellectual structure of LIS. Moreover, the study employs a cross-dataset integration approach, combining data from multiple sources such as Scopus and Web of Science to enhance the robustness and reliability of the findings. In addition, by synthesizing both global publication trends and thematic analyses, our work provides an integrated map of the intellectual landscape, identifying key research clusters, collaboration networks, and emerging topics that have hitherto remained underexplored. Finally, the study benchmarks its results against existing literature to highlight temporal shifts in research focus, thereby offering valuable insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners aiming to navigate and shape the future trajectory of LIS research.

2. Methods

This study employed the bibliometric analysis methodology for

research published in the field of Library and Information Science from the Dimensions.ai database. The data is obtained from Dimensions.ai, a comprehensive research information platform offered by Digital Science (https://www.dimensions.ai). We selected this database for its extensive data repository, which includes detailed citation metrics per publication. The query parameters were set as follows: a date range from 2016 to 2024, inclusion of only publications classified as "article," and the query was executed on 16th February 2025. The executed query was: search publications in title_abstract_only for "(library and information studies)" type="article" return publications. This search yielded a corpus of 470,934 documents, which were then analyzed using VOSviewer. The framework of the study is outlined as follows:

Fig.1 The search strategy flow diagram



Source: Elaborated by author based on (17)

3. Results

In this section, we analyse and discuss the main results of our study.

Annual Publication Trends in Library and Information Science (LIS) in Dimensions.ai from 2016–2024

This section analyses annual publication trends in Library and Information Science (LIS) using data from Dimensions.ai for 2016–2024. The analysis reveals significant growth in research output over time.

Table 1. Annual Publication Trends in LIS in Dimensions.ai from 2016–2024.

year	Dimensions.ai
2024	24649
2023	23410
2022	21930
2021	22293
2020	**24943**
2019	20234
2018	15955
2017	15067
2016	13677

Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai[†]

Between 2016 and 2024, the number of publications in LIS grew substantially, rising from 13,677 in 2016 to a peak of 24,943 in 2020. A marked acceleration was observed in 2019, followed by a slight decline in 2021 and 2022—possibly due to disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic—with counts of 22,293 and 21,930, respectively. Publication output then rebounded, reaching 23,410 in 2023 and 24,649 in 2024, reflecting an overall growth of approximately 80% over the period. These results demonstrate a robust and evolving trajectory in LIS research, highlighting the field's resilience and the adaptability of its scholarly community. Moreover, the findings underscore the effectiveness of advanced bibliometric tools like Dimensions.ai in capturing nuanced shifts in research activity, thereby providing a solid foundation for mapping the intellectual landscape of LIS.

Top 10 Most Prolific Authors in LIS

The following analysis highlights the top 10 most prolific authors in LIS by presenting their publication counts, total citations, and average citations per publication, thereby illustrating variations in

[†]https://app.dimensions.ai/discover/publication?order=altmetric&or_facet_for=80189&or_facet_publication_type=article&and_facet_for=80189

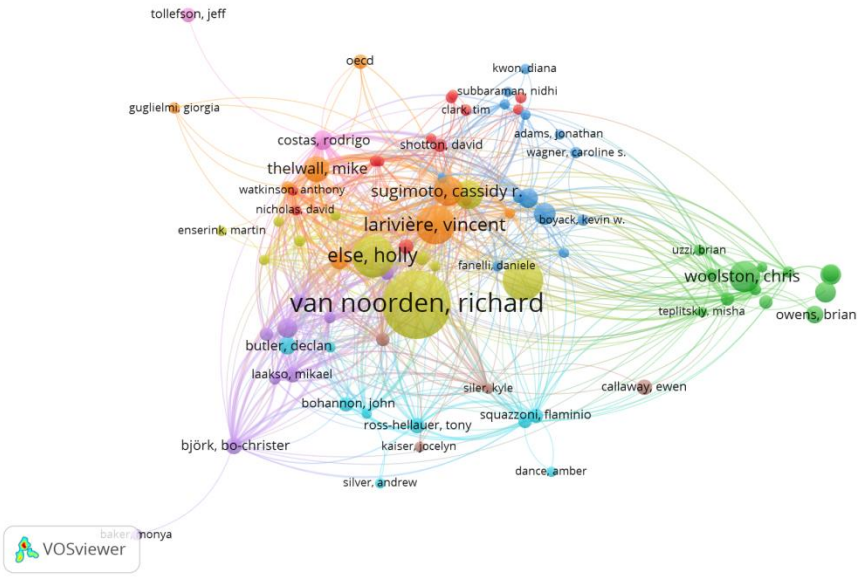
scholarly impact across different regions.

Table 2. Top 10 Most Prolific Authors in LIS

N	Author	Country	Publications	Citations	Citations mean
1	Mike A Thelwall	United kingdom	332	16748	50.45
2	Lutz Bornmann	Germany	330	16867	51.11
3	Loet A Leydesdorff	Nethelands	245	17643	72.01
4	Wolfgang Glanzel	Belgium	208	11.452	55.06
5	Ronald Rousseau	Belgium	203	4744	23.37
6	Ina Fourie	South Africa	194	543	2.80
7	Dennis J Cada	United States	193	165	0.85
8	Philip James Calvert	New Zealand	186	399	2.15
9	David Bruce Nicholas	Canada	180	4558	25.32
10	Peter Hernon	United States	173	899	5.20

Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai

Fig.2 Top 10 Most Prolific Authors in LIS



Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai using VOSviewer.

The table lists the top 10 most published authors in LIS, along with their affiliated countries, total publication counts, overall citations, and mean citations per publication. Notably, Mike A. Thelwall from the United Kingdom and Lutz Bornmann from Germany lead the ranking with 332 and 330 publications respectively, each garnering approximately 50 citations per publication. Loet A. Leydesdorff from the Netherlands, despite having fewer publications (245), exhibits the highest impact with an average of 72.01 citations per publication. In contrast, authors such as Ina Fourie from South Africa, Dennis J. Cada and Philip James Calvert from the United States and New Zealand respectively, have high publication counts but relatively low citation means, indicating varying research impact among prolific contributors.

This analysis highlights the diversity in scholarly influence and the regional differences in research output within the field.

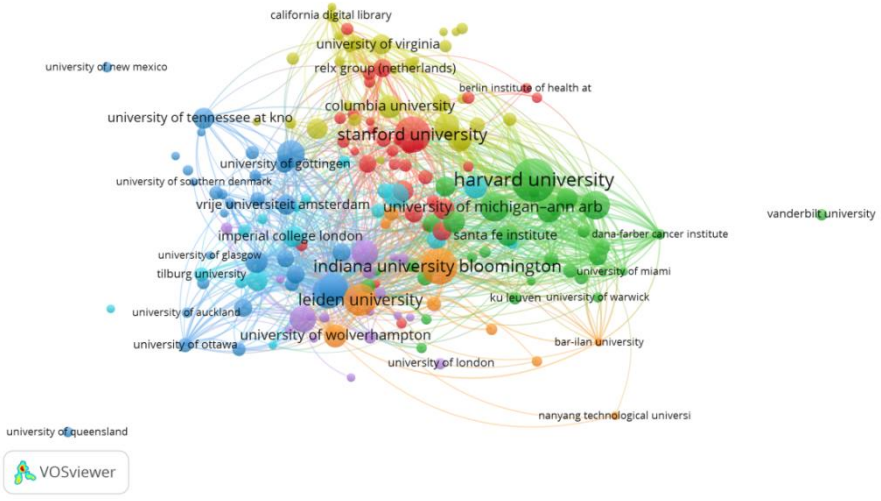
Top 10 Most Prolific institutions in LIS

Table 3. Top 10 Most Prolific institutions in LIS

N	Organization	documents	citations	Total link strength
1	Univ. Of Monreal	29	9288	668
2	Harvard university	46	5768	568
3	Univ. Of Quebec in Monreal	26	5539	562
4	Indiana Univ. Bloomington	35	6921	538
5	Northwestern univ.	26	7324	523
6	Leiden univ.	31	17963	440
7	Hanken school of economics	18	2164	327
8	Northeastern univ.	10	2664	318
9	Brigham and women's hospital	13	2429	317
10	Stanford univ.	36	4740	286

Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai

Fig.3 Top 10 Most Prolific institutions in LIS



Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai using VOSviewer.

Table 3 presents bibliometric indicators for ten leading institutions in LIS. It reports the number of documents published, total citations received, and overall link strength.

Harvard University leads in document production with 46 publications. Northeastern University records the lowest output with only 10 documents. Leiden University stands out with an impressive 17,963 citations. This high citation count indicates a significant impact despite a moderate volume of documents. The University of Montreal has produced 29 documents alongside 9,288 citations. It also tops the collaboration measure with link strength of 668. Indiana University Bloomington shows strong performance with 35 documents. It has garnered 6,921 citations, underscoring its research influence. Northwestern University, with 26 documents, achieves 7,324 citations. Stanford University produces 36 documents but has lower link strength of 286.

This suggests fewer collaborative ties despite a high publication count. Hanken School of Economics contributes 18 documents with 2,164 citations. It maintains link strength of 327, indicating moderate collaboration. Brigham and Women's Hospital offer 13 documents and 2,429 citations. Its link strength stands at 317, reflecting a similar level of collaborative engagement.

Overall, the metrics highlight varied research productivity and influence among these institutions. The differences in document counts, citations, and link strengths suggest diverse research strategies. This comprehensive snapshot illuminates the intellectual landscape in Library and Information Science.

Top 10 Most Prolific sources in LIS

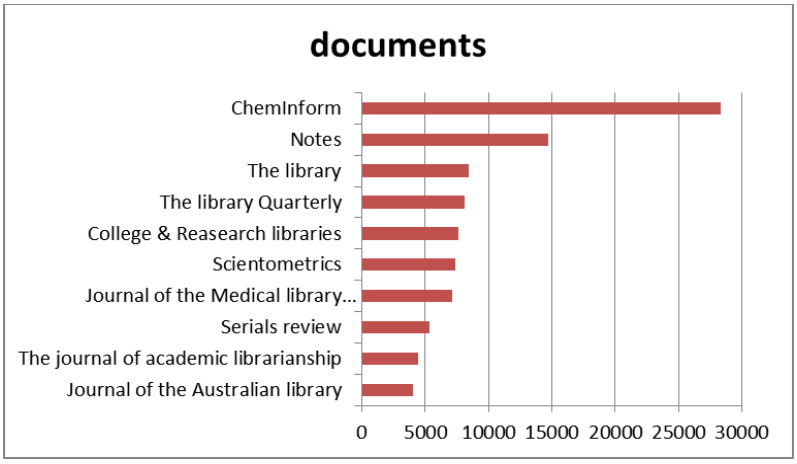
This section examines the top 10 most prolific sources in LIS, evaluating their publication outputs and citation impacts to reveal key insights into their scholarly influence.

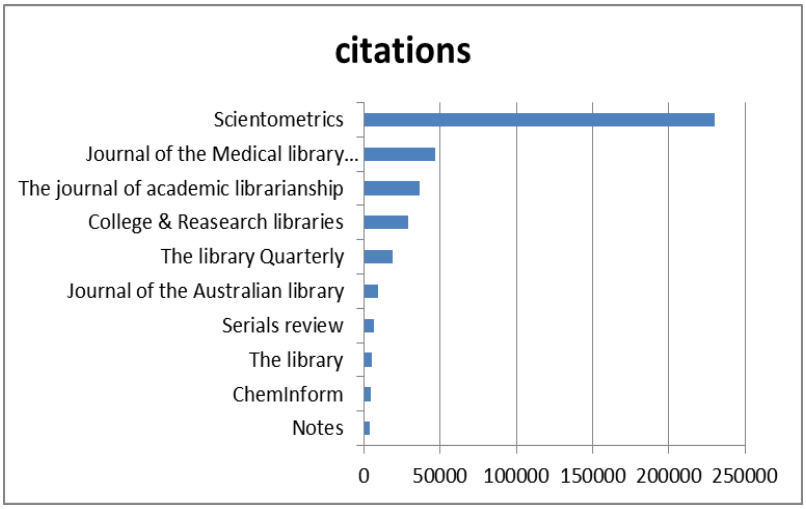
Table 4. Top 10 Most Prolific sources in LIS

N	Source Title	documents	citations
1	ChemInform	28327	4900
2	Notes	14696	3602
3	The library	8441	5532
4	The library Quarterly	8106	18579
5	College & Reasearch libraries	7596	28835
6	Scientometrics	7421	229901
7	Journal of the Medical library association	7180	46619
8	Serials review	5362	6726
9	The journal of academic librarianship	4487	36522
10	Journal of the Australian library	4009	9021

Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai

Fig.4 Top 10 Most Prolific sources in LIS





Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai using VOSviewer.

The table presents bibliometric data on ten prominent sources in LIS. It provides metrics for the number of documents published and the total citations received by each source. **ChemInform** leads in output with 28,327 documents. However, its citation count is relatively modest at 4,900 citations. **Notes journal** follows with 14,696 documents and 3,602 citations, showing a similar trend. **The Library** publishes 8,441 documents accompanied by 5,532 citations, reflecting a balanced performance. **The Library Quarterly**, with 8,106 documents, achieves a much higher citation count of 18,579. **College & Research Libraries** reports 7,596 documents and 28,835 citations, indicating strong influence. These figures reveal that higher document counts do not always correspond with higher citations.

Scientometrics stands out with 7,421 documents and an exceptionally high 229,901 citations. This remarkable citation count underscores its significant impact in the field. **The Journal of the Medical Library Association** shows robust performance with 7,180 documents and 46,619 citations. Its figures suggest a solid citation impact relative to its publication volume. **Serials Review**, producing 5,362 documents, garners 6,726 citations, indicating moderate influence. **The Journal of Academic Librarianship**, with 4,487 documents, achieves 36,522 citations. This source exhibits a high

citation rate per document, emphasizing its academic reach. **The Journal of the Australian Library** records the lowest output with 4,009 documents. It secures 9,021 citations, reflecting a moderate impact compared to other sources.

On the whole, the data reveal a disparity between sheer publication volume and citation impact among the sources. These variations highlight differences in journal visibility, research focus, and disciplinary influence within the field.

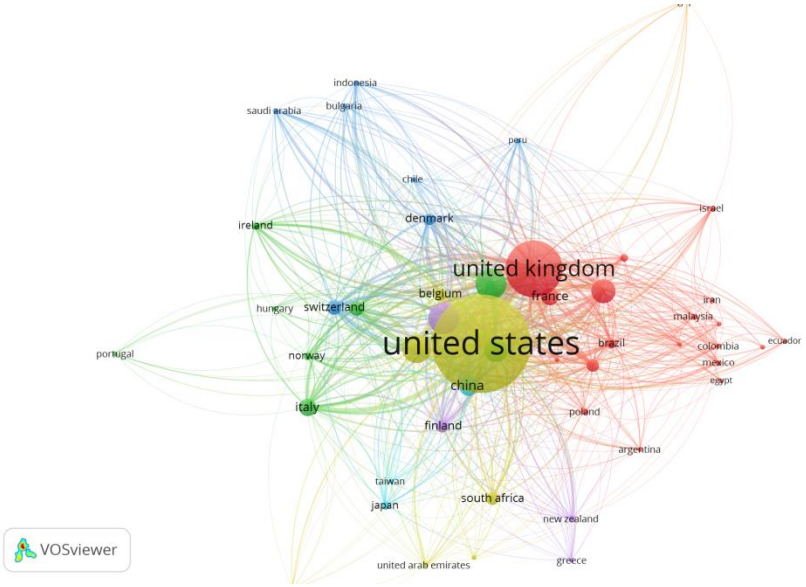
Top 10 Most Prolific countries in LIS

This section examines the top 10 most prolific countries in LIS by analyzing their research outputs, citation impacts, and collaborative network strengths to illustrate the global dynamics of scholarly influence.

Table 5. Top 10 Most Prolific countries in LIS

N	Countries	documents	Citations	Total link strength
1	United States	698	140796	4487
2	United Kingdom	324	40436	2625
3	Germany	136	23835	1684
4	Netherlands	126	39053	1682
5	Canada	135	17140	1590
6	Spain	93	20359	1077
7	Australia	94	6393	739
8	Belgium	33	14753	719
9	China	71	18812	708
10	Sweden	45	18063	660

Fig.5 Top 10 Most Prolific countries in LIS



Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai using VOSviewer.

The table provides a comparative analysis of bibliometric metrics across ten countries in LIS. The United States leads significantly with 698 documents, 140,796 citations, and a total link strength of 4,487, highlighting its dominant research output and collaborative network. The United Kingdom follows with 324 documents and 40,436 citations, underscoring its influential academic presence despite a lower document count. Germany and the Netherlands contribute moderately with 136 and 126 documents respectively, yet both exhibit high citation figures of 23,835 and 39,053, reflecting substantial impact per publication. Canada presents a balanced profile with 135 documents, 17,140 citations, and strong collaborative link strength of 1,590. Spain, with 93 documents, achieves 20,359 citations, suggesting a high average citation rate relative to its output. Australia's 94 documents yield 6,393 citations and link strength of 739, indicating moderate influence in the global research arena. Belgium stands out by amassing 14,753 citations from only 33 documents, pointing to highly impactful research contributions. China, with 71 documents and 18,812 citations, and

Sweden, with 45 documents and 18,063 citations, both demonstrate notable efficiency in citation impact despite lower publication volumes.

In conclusion, the data reveal that while higher document counts generally correlate with increased citations and link strength, certain countries achieve exceptional influence through high citation rates per document, emphasizing diverse research strategies and collaborative dynamics in the field.

Most cited documents in Dimensions.ai in LIS

This section examines the most cited documents in LIS as identified by Dimensions.ai, revealing the seminal works that have significantly shaped scholarly research and discourse.

Table 6. Most cited documents in dimension.ai in LIS

N	Documents	Citations	Altmetrics
1	Research electronic data capture (REDCap)—A metadata…(18)	39K	137
2	Software survey: VOSviewer, a computer program..(19)	13K	102
3	The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management...(20)	12K	2259
4	An index to quantify an individual's scientific…(21)	8.8K	512
5	bibliometrix: An R-tool …(22)	8K	141
6	Strategies for ensuring trustworthiness in qualitative…(23)	5K	31
7	Detecting and visualizing emerging trends…(24)	4.6K	22
8	Co□citation in the scientific literature: A new measure…(25)	4K	23
9	Maps of random walks on complex networks...(26)	3.8K	98
10	The structure of scientific collaboration networks(27)	3.5K	115

K=1000, 39K= 39000 citations

Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai

The table details the most cited documents in dimensions.ai by comparing traditional citation metrics with altmetric scores, providing insights into both scholarly and public engagement. The work by

Harris et al. (2008) leads with an impressive 39K citations, indicating significant academic impact, although its altmetric score of 137 suggests a moderate level of online attention. In contrast, Wilkinson et al. (2016) records 12K citations coupled with an exceptionally high altmetric score of 2259, reflecting robust social media and public engagement. Other influential works, such as Hirsch (2005) and Aria & Cuccurullo (2017), exhibit balanced metrics with approximately 8-9K citations and altmetric scores ranging from 141 to 512. Documents by Shenton (2004), Chen (2005), and Small (1973) display lower citation and altmetric figures, indicating a more modest yet still valuable contribution to the field. Additionally, Rosvall & Bergstrom (2008) and Newman (2001) contribute with citation counts below 4K and corresponding altmetric scores that underscore their recognized but less widespread impact. Overall, the data illustrate a diverse spectrum of research influence, where high citation counts do not always align with high altmetric engagement, underscoring the multifaceted nature of scholarly impact.

Most influential documents in LIS based on Altmetrics in Dimension.ai

This section highlights the most influential Library and Information Science documents as identified by Altmetrics in Dimensions.ai.

Table 7. Most influential documents in LIS based on Altmetrics in Dimension.ai

N	Document	Altmetrics	citations
1	Online collaboration: Scientists…(28)	5004	498
2	Who's Afraid of Peer Review? (29)	4510	817

3	Papers and patents are becoming...(30)	4359	410
4	Nature journals reveal terms of landmark…(31)	3713	33
5	An Efficiency Comparison of Document…(32)	3258	29
6	Impact factor abandoned…(33)	3230	67
7	Disruptive' science has declined(34)	3148	46
8	Publishers withdraw more than 120…(35)	2968	86
9	Radical open-access plan could spell...(36)	2475	109
10	The Kardashian index…(37)	2259	144

Source: Elaborated by author based on Dimensions.ai

The table compares the altmetrics and citation counts of ten influential documents in Library and Information Science. Van Noorden (2014a) leads with an altmetrics score of 5004, yet its citation count is moderately low at 498. Bohannon (2013) follows with a slightly lower altmetrics score of 4510 but a notably higher citation count of 817, suggesting stronger academic recognition. Park et al. (2023) and Else (2020) maintain robust altmetrics scores of 4359 and 3713 respectively, although Else (2020) exhibits a very low citation count of 33, indicating a possible disparity between online engagement and scholarly referencing. Knauff & Nejasmic (2014) and Woolston (2021) have comparable altmetrics figures in the low 3200 range, paired with very low citation counts of 29 and 67, which may

point to niche online discussions with limited academic uptake. Kozlov (2023), Van Noorden (2014b), Else (2018), and Hall (2014) show a trend of lower altmetrics scores ranging from 2259 to 2968 with corresponding low to moderate citations, suggesting that their impact is more confined to traditional academic channels.

On the whole, the table illustrates the complex relationship between online visibility and academic citations, emphasizing that high altmetrics do not always correlate with high scholarly impact.

- CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our bibliometric analysis using Dimensions.ai delineates a comprehensive intellectual map of Library and Information Science, capturing dynamic shifts in research output and collaborative networks. The study documents a marked increase in publication trends, accompanied by diverse citation patterns and varying degrees of scholarly impact across authors, institutions, sources, and countries. Notably, the findings reveal that a high volume of publications does not invariably translate to elevated citation metrics, thereby underscoring the multifaceted nature of research influence. By integrating traditional bibliometric measures with Altmetric indicators, this study offers a nuanced perspective that bridges academic recognition with public engagement. This dual approach not only substantiates existing theoretical frameworks but also unveils emergent research themes and critical gaps warranting further investigation. The deployment of advanced analytical tools such as Dimensions.ai fortifies the methodological rigor of the study, paving the way for future explorations in the field. Ultimately, these insights are instrumental for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners committed to advancing the scholarly discourse and strategic development of Library and Information Science.

- Endnotes:

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