Chapter 26
Collaboration Scenario in the Indian LIS Papers of the 21ˢᵗ Century

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ABSTRACT

There was a gradual transition from single-authored papers to collaborative papers in the 20th century, especially in science subjects. The trend caught up with LIS papers as well in late 20th century. With the passage of time, collaboration took various forms, which outlined. The chapter is based on more than 600 publications of which 341 were covered in Bibliography on Work-Flow in Libraries (1966) and the rest published in National Conference on Advances in Knowledge Management –NCAKM'10 - Proceedings (2010), Proceedings of the 9th Annual National Convention of MANLIBNET on Business and Management Librarianship (2008), Proceedings of the 11th Annual National Convention of MANLIBNET on Trends and Challenges in Management in Corporate Libraries in Digital Era (2010), and Proceedings of the National Conference on ICT Impact on Knowledge and Information Management (2010). The earliest collaborative papers found in this study are from 1941. The collaborative papers published from 2008-2010 accounted for 68.6% of the total and filled on average 6.3 pages. A predominance of inter-organizational cooperation in the generation of papers is observed in the study. There is hardly any international cooperation for producing LIS papers.

INTRODUCTION

Collaboration for scientific works, writing books and articles etc are going on since ancient times. It is known that Pythagoras (569 BC -500/475 BC) formed a society where the members had to maintain strict secrecy. They shared ideas and intellectual discoveries within the group and did not take individual credit. Thus all the discoveries made by the members were attributed to Pythagoras. Therefore, today it is difficult to be certain whether all the theorems attributed to Pythagoras were originally his, or whether they came from the communal society of the Pythagoreans (Douglass, 2005). The practice is not very uncommon even today.

During the past 2,500 years various types of collaboration has evolved. Except the spatial collaboration, other types of collaboration have not yet been classified and discussed properly. Here is a small attempt to do that.

SCOPE

Products of collaboration are many and varied. Apart from papers, many books and patents, etc. are also products of collaboration. In this article, research papers, review papers, short communications, informative papers, etc. on library and information science (LIS) published in the 21st century in India are only being considered.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the paper are

1. To find out the extent of collaborative papers in the field of library and information science in the 21st century generating from India at present;

2. To examine the types of collaboration, i.e. inter-organizational, intra-organizational, and international;
3. To measure the average length of papers.

LITERATURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

It has been noticed that in India collaborative papers are mainly published in journals, conference proceedings, and festschrift volumes. The bibliographical control of conference documents and festschrift volumes being poor, and their unavailability in libraries make it almost impossible to project the real scenario. *Indian Library Science Abstracts 2000-2005* has tried to cover the literature to the extent possible (IASLIC, 2007). The coverage may be around 70 to 80 percent. Basing this source, an idea is being given about the collaborative literature. It is to be noted that *Indian Library Science Abstracts 2006-2010* is under compilation and to be published in 2013.

Indian Library Science Abstracts 2000-2005 includes 3,130 abstracts. Of which 1310 are collaborative papers, slightly above 41.5 percent. *Indian Library Science Abstracts 2006-2010* is also having around 3,000 entries. A sample study shows that the percentage of collaborative papers is likely to be higher than 42 percent.

TYPES OF COLLABORATION

With the passage of time various types of collaboration have evolved. A glimpse of the same is being provided.

● **Invisible Collaboration**: In this type of collaboration, the name or names of the collaborators do not find a mention in the work. The work goes in the name of the guru, leader, boss, senior, etc as was the case in the society founded by Pythagoras.

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