



Growth and Research Trends in Doctoral Dissertation in Library and Information Science in West Bengal, India (1983-2023)

Tripurari Sharan^a and Dr. Zabeen Ahemed^b

^a Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, Pin-793101, Email-tripurarisinha686@gmail.com

^b Dr. Zabeen Ahmed, Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, Pin 793101, Email - zabeen2015@gmail.com

Received: 06 January 2026; Accepted: 19 February 2026

This study explores how doctoral research in Library and Information Science (LIS) has evolved in West Bengal over the past four decades. The study analyses 341 PhD theses awarded by universities in West Bengal offering a PhD program in Library Science between 1983 and 2023. The study uses an extensive survey method to collect the bibliographic entries of doctoral dissertations. Citations are obtained either directly from the university libraries or downloaded from the Sodhganaga Repository. The study outlines the growth trends, institutional contributions, gender participation, supervision practices, research themes, language use, and citation patterns, using simple bibliometric and descriptive techniques. The results revealed that after 2010, the University of Calcutta and Jadavpur University played leading roles in Library and Information Science Research. Most research outputs are written in English language, followed by Bengali. Bibliometrics and information behaviour are found to be the most widely researched topics. Although the study highlights the growing academic strength and maturity in Library and Information Science research, it also found some gender imbalances and uneven research practices across the surveyed universities, which highlights the need for more inclusive and balanced growth in the future.

Keywords: Research trends, Growth Analysis, LIS research, PhD. Theses, West Bengal

1. Introduction

West Bengal is a state which is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and also holds a pioneering position in Library and Information Science (LIS) education in India. It was the first state in Eastern and North-Eastern India to introduce LIS education. The development is closely linked to the establishment of the Bengal Library Association (BLA) in the year 1924 (Panigrahi, 2010). The Association played a vital role in promoting the library movement and emphasising the need for trained library professionals, under the leadership of Rabindranath Tagore, with Sushil Kumar Ghosh as its first General Secretary. This led to the establishment of the first library science training camp at Bansberia, near Kolkata, in 1934.

At present, nine universities in West Bengal offer LIS programmes at various levels. Out of these nine universities, six have awarded a total of 341 PhD degrees in Library and Information Science over the years 1979 to 2023. The University of Gour Banga, the University of North Bengal, and Netaji Subhas Open University have introduced

doctoral programmes in recent years, but no PhD degrees have been awarded so far. Through this study, the researchers aim to portray the current PhD research trends in the LIS domain at universities in the West Bengal state of India.

1.1 Universities under Study

The study covers six universities of West Bengal that offer regular courses and a PhD Program in the Library and Information Science domain. The details of the Universities covered in the study given in [Table 1](#).

2. Review of literature

Warkade (2024) analysed LIS doctoral dissertations awarded in universities of Madhya Pradesh during 1982–2022, examining research trends, broad and narrow subject areas, development patterns, and university-wise productivity. The study highlights current directions of LIS research in the ICT era through keyword and trend analysis, offering valuable insights into the contemporary research landscape, including regional-language research.

Table 1 — List of Universities offering PhD Programme in West Bengal

SL	Name of the University	Estd. Year	BLIS	MLIS	MLIS(DL)	MLIS (5 yr integrated)	Mphil	PhD
1	University of Calcutta	1857	1945	1975		2010	2003	1972
2	Jadavpur University	1955	1964	1972	2003			1985
3	Kalyani University	1960	1992	1999			2006	2003
4	University of Burdwan	1960	1965	1978			2003	1982
5	Rabindra Bharti University	1962	1985	2007				2010
6	Vidyasagar University	1981	1985	1986				1993

(From website)

Dutta and Mandal (2021) examined trends and issues in LIS doctoral research in India, revealing that universities in the Southern zone dominate PhD output (46.34%), followed by the Western zone (18.86%). The study observed an overall increase in doctoral production across more universities over time, identified bibliometrics as a leading research area, noted positive keyword growth trends, and highlighted under-researched areas such as institutional repositories, library finance, library movement, and metadata, while confirming English as the predominant language alongside other Indian languages.

Chakrabarti, Mondal and Maity (2020) analysed 230 LIS PhD theses awarded in West Bengal between 1979 and 2018, examining bibliographic parameters such as university, year, gender of researchers and supervisors, supervision patterns, language, and subject. The study observed steady growth until 2000, followed by a significant rise in LIS research, with Jadavpur University contributing the highest number of these, and the dominant research areas being user studies, information-seeking behaviour, and information sources and services.

Maity and Hatua (2015) observed that LIS education in India faces a serious challenge from Computer Science and Information Technology, as academic interest has gradually shifted from core LIS subjects toward IT and computer applications. The study further analysed 1,058 doctoral theses submitted across various Indian universities during 1950–2012.

3. Objectives of the study

- To identify the chronological distribution and gender-wise distribution of LIS research.
- To find out the different types of Bibliographic formats.
- To analyse the research trends in doctoral dissertations on LIS research in the universities of West Bengal.

- To identify university-wise distribution of theses.
- To depict language-wise distribution of theses and demonstrate topic-wise distribution of theses.

4. Methodology

The scope of the present study is restricted to the 341 PhD theses awarded by the Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) of six universities in West Bengal up to December 2023. The bibliographical details of the PhD theses were collected from the Central Libraries of the respective universities and cross-verified with the Shodhganga repository of INFLIBNET for full-text availability. The obtained data were systematically recorded and analysed in MS Excel to fulfil the objectives of the study.

5. Data analysis

The bibliographical details of 341 PhD theses have been categorised and interpreted in the following sections.

Table 2 and figure 1 indicate the year-wise distribution of thesis submissions began at different times across the selected universities: The University of Calcutta (CU) in 1995, University of Burdwan (BU) in 1983, Jadavpur University (JU) in 1989, Vidyasagar University (VU) in 1996, University of Kalyani (KU) in 2007, and Rabindra Bharati University (RBU) in 2016.

Table 3 and figure 2 depict that the growth-wise distribution of theses shows a steady rise across universities, beginning with minimal output during 1981–1985 and gradually increasing to a peak in the periods 2011–2015 and 2016–2020.

Table 4 and figure 3 reveal that the six selected universities together produced 341 LIS doctoral theses. The University of Calcutta leads with 104 theses, followed by Jadavpur University (85) and the University of Burdwan (51), while Rabindra Bharati University records the lowest output (15 theses). In

Table 2 — Year-wise submission of theses

SL. No	Year	CU	BU	JU	VU	KU	RBU	Total	Percentage
1.	1983		1					1	0.29
2.	1984		0					0	0.00
3.	1985		0					0	0.00
4.	1986		0					0	0.00
5.	1987		1					1	0.29
6.	1988		0					0	0.00
7.	1989		1	1				2	0.59
8.	1990		1	0				1	0.29
9.	1991		3	0				3	0.88
10.	1992		0	0				0	0.00
11.	1993		1	0				1	0.29
12.	1994		0	1				1	0.29
13.	1995	2	0	1				3	0.88
14.	1996	1	0	1	1			3	0.88
15.	1997	0	0	0	0			0	0.00
16.	1998	0	0	0	2			2	0.59
17.	1999	0	0	1	1			2	0.59
18.	2000	0	0	2	0			2	0.59
19.	2001	1	1	3	2			7	2.05
20.	2002	1	0	3	1			5	1.47
21.	2003	1	1	0	1			3	0.88
22.	2004	1	0	0	0			1	0.29
23.	2005	1	0	3	0			4	1.17
24.	2006	1	3	4	4			12	3.52
25.	2007	3	0	2	0	2		7	2.05
26.	2008	0	4	2	1	1		8	2.35
27.	2009	1	2	2	2	1		8	2.3
28.	2010	2	1	2	2	1		8	2.35
29.	2011	6	4	1	0	1		12	3.52
30.	2012	0	2	4	1	1		8	2.35
31.	2013	6	2	1	3	1		13	3.81
32.	2014	9	5	2	1	2		19	5.57
33.	2015	3	1	7	1	1		13	3.81
34.	2016	7	2	6	2	4	2	23	6.74
35.	2017	5	3	6	2	6	3	25	7.33
36.	2018	5	0	7	4	9	4	29	8.50
37.	2019	11	2	8	4	2	5	32	9.38
38.	2020	2	3	2	0	0	0	7	2.05
39.	2021	13	3	5	1	0	0	22	6.45
40.	2022	6	2	1	13	0	1	23	6.74
41.	2023	16	2	7	3	2	0	30	8.80
	Total	104	51	85	52	34	15	341	100.00

terms of impact, the University of Calcutta emerges as the most influential, accounting for 32.51% of total citations (19,263), indicating high visibility and scholarly use. Rabindra Bharati University records the

lowest citation share (2.96%), indicating limited research influence.

Table 5 shows that among 341 doctoral degree awardees, male scholars 240 (70.38%) significantly

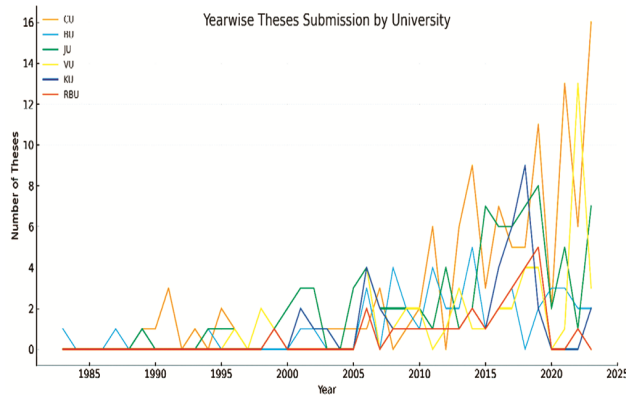


Fig. 1 — Year wise distribution of theses

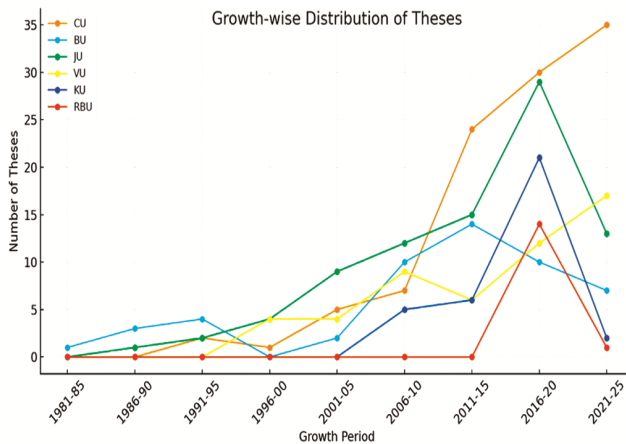


Fig. 2 — Growth wise distribution of theses

outnumber female scholars 101 (29.62%) across all six universities indicating an overall male dominance in doctoral LIS research.

Table 6 and figure 4 shows that research supervision in LIS doctoral studies is largely male-dominated, with 294 male supervisors, compared to 36 female supervisors and 11 cases of joint (male–female) supervision out of 341 theses. Overall, the data highlight a pronounced underrepresentation of female supervisors across the selected universities.

Table 7 and figure 5 highlight the concentration of doctoral supervision among a small group of highly productive supervisors. Dr. Biplab Chakrabarti

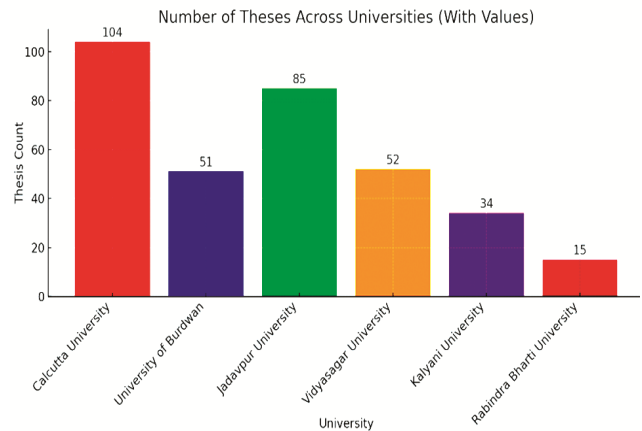


Fig. 3 — University Wise Doctoral Dissertations of Library science in West Bengal

Table 3 — Growth wise distribution of theses

SL	Growth	CU	BU	JU	VU	KU	RBU	Total	Percentage
1	1981-1985		1					1	0.29
2	1986-1990		3	1				4	1.17
3	1991-1995	2	4	2				8	2.35
4	1996-2000	1	0	4	4			9	2.64
5	2001-2005	5	2	9	4			20	5.87
6	2006-2010	7	10	12	9	5		43	12.61
7	2011-2015	24	14	15	6	6		65	19.06
8	2016-2020	30	10	29	12	21	14	116	34.02
9	2021-2025	35	7	13	17	2	1	75	21.99
	Total	104	51	85	52	34	15	341	100.00

Table 4 — University Wise Distribution of Doctoral Dissertations in Library and Information science at West Bengal

Sl. No.	University	Theses	Cumulative Theses	Percentage	Total Citation	Percentage
1	Calcutta University	104	104	30.50	19263	32.51
2	University of Burdwan	51	155	14.96	11529	19.46
3	Jadavpur University	85	240	24.93	12756	21.53
4	Vidyasagar University	52	292	15.25	8517	14.38
5	Kalyani University	34	326	9.97	5425	9.16
6	Rabindra Bharti University	15	341	4.40	1754	2.96
	Total	341		100.00	59244	100.00

Table 5 — Gender wise distribution of Doctoral degree awarded researchers

SL	University	Gender of Scholar				Total	Percentage
		Male	%	Female	%		
1	CU	64	18.77	40	11.73	104	30.50
2	BU	44	12.90	7	2.05	51	14.96
3	JU	60	17.60	25	7.33	85	24.93
4	VU	37	10.85	15	4.40	52	15.25
5	KU	23	6.74	11	3.23	34	9.97
6	RBU	12	3.52	3	0.88	15	4.40
	Total	240	70.38	101	29.62	341	100.00

Table 6 — Gender wise contribution of research supervisors

SL	University	Gender of Supervisor			Total	Percentage
		Male	Female	Male &Female		
1	CU	83	18	3	104	30.50
2	BU	47	0	4	51	14.96
3	JU	73	9	3	85	24.93
4	VU	42	9	1	52	15.25
5	KU	34	0	0	34	9.97
6	RBU	15	0	0	15	4.40
	Total	294	36	11	341	100.00

Table 7 — Distribution of research supervisor contributing to Ph.D. work

SL	Name of Supervisor	Single	Joint	Total no. of theses	University
1	Biplab Chakrabarti	26	7	33	CU
2	Subarna Kumar Das	15	1	16	JU
3	Udayan Bhattacharya	14	1	15	JU
4	Tridib Tripathi	11	3	14	BU
5	Subal Chandra Biswas	6	5	11	BU
6	Chaitali Dutta	9	2	11	JU
7	Pijush Kanti Jana	10	1	11	VU
8	Durga Sankar Rath	7	3	10	VU
9	Sabuj Dasgupta	10	0	10	KU
10	Juran Krishna Sarkhel	10	0	10	KU

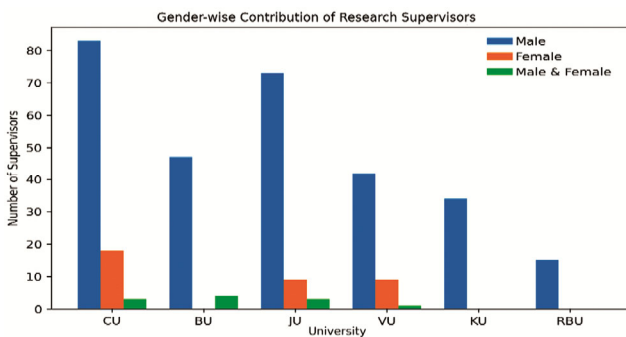


Fig. 4 — Gender-wise contribution of Research supervisors

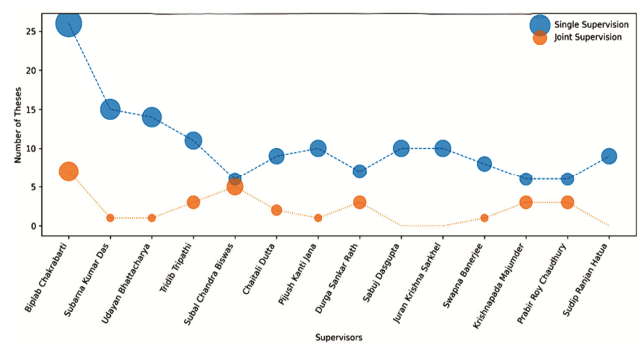


Fig. 5 — Top 10 most productive supervisors

(University of Calcutta) leads with 33 supervised theses, followed by Dr. Subarna Kumar Das (Jadavpur University) with 16 and Dr. Udayan Bhattacharya (Jadavpur University) with 15. At the lower end of the group, Dr Juran Krishna Sarkhel supervised minimum number theses (10).

Table 8 and figure 6 reveal that single supervision is the dominant pattern in Ph.D. research, accounting for 295 theses (86.51%), while joint supervision represents only 46 theses (13.49%). This trend is consistent across all universities, indicating a strong preference for single-supervisor guidance in doctoral research.

The language-wise distribution of theses of Table 9 and figure 7 show that English language has overwhelmingly dominates across all universities.

Table 10 and figure 8 presents a comparative analysis of topic-wise doctoral theses across universities, revealing that Bibliometric Studies, Information Need & Seeking Behaviour, and Information System Design & Development emerge as the most dominant research areas overall. In contrast,

areas such as Green Library & Sustainable Practices, Intellectual Property Rights, and Resource Sharing & Networking account for relatively fewer theses

The comparative study of the table 11 and figure 9 pointed out that the page-wise distribution of these across the six universities. The majority of submissions fall between 150–250 pages, especially from CU, BU, and JU, while only a small number of theses extend beyond 600 pages, and very few reach the 700–1000-

Table 8 — Supervision pattern of research works

SL	Supervision Pattern	CU	BU	JU	VU	KU	RBU	Total no. of theses	Percentage
1	Single	93	41	72	43	31	15	295	86.51
2	Joint	11	10	13	9	3	0	46	13.49
	Total	104	51	85	52	34	15	341	100

Table 9 — Language-wise distribution of theses

SL	Type of Language	CU	BU	JU	VU	KU	RBU	Total no. of theses	Percentage
1	English	102	49	75	52	31	12	321	94.13
2	Bengali	2	2	10	0	3	3	20	5.87
	Total	104	51	85	52	34	15	341	100

Table 10 — Topic wise doctoral theses

SL	Topic	CU	BU	JU	VU	KU	RBU
1	Bibliographic control & Analysis	4	1	3	3	2	0
2	Bibliometric studies	16	10	10	10	3	4
3	Classification , Cataloguing & Knowledge Organisation	5	1	12	4	3	1
4	cultural Documentation/Bengali Literature studies	2	4	10	0	1	3
5	Digital Libraries	4	0	0	1	1	1
6	Green Library & Sustainable Practises	3	1	1	0	0	0
7	Information need & Seeking Behaviour	17	9	13	5	7	0
8	Information system Design & Development	11	5	8	9	10	2
9	Information System & Services	13	4	8	6	2	2
10	Intellectual Property Rights	2	1	3	1	0	1
11	Library Management & Administration	8	8	11	5	1	0
12	LIS Education & Professional Development	7	0	0	3	1	1
13	Preservation & conservation	5	0	0	1	2	0
14	Public Library System & Legislation	5	5	5	2	0	0
15	Resource Sharing & networking	2	2	1	2	1	0
	Total	104	51	85	52	34	15

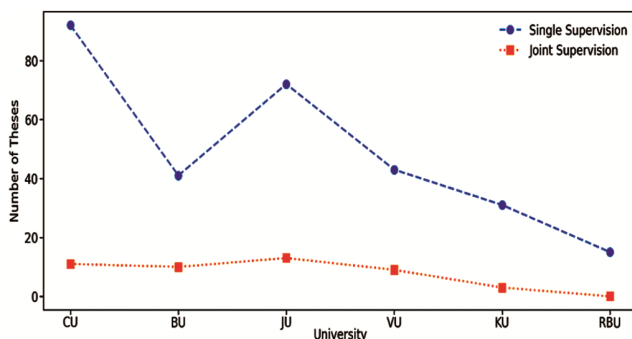


Fig. 6 — Supervision pattern of research works

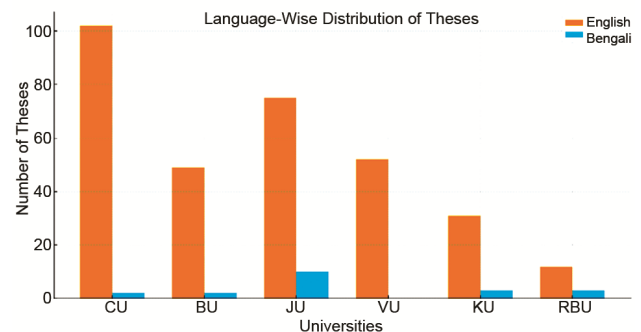


Fig. 7 — Language-wise distribution of theses

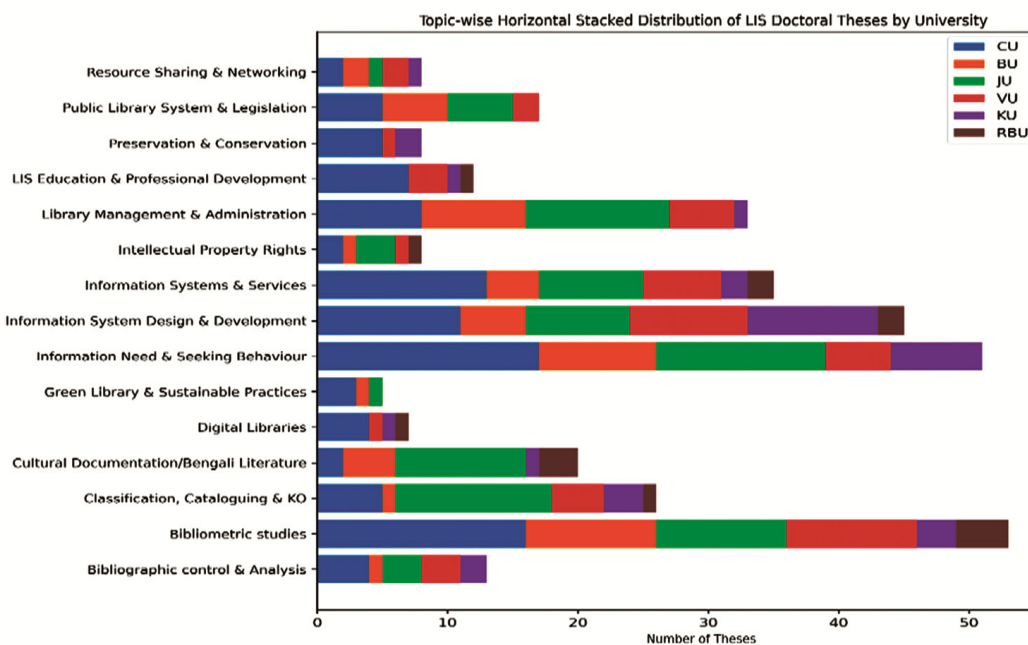


Fig. 8 — Topic wise distribution of the submitted theses

Table 11 — Page number wise distribution of theses

SL	Pages	CU	BU	JU	VU	KU	RBU	Total	Percentage
1	0-50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
2	50-100	1	0	3	1	0	0	5	1.47
3	100-150	8	1	6	3	2	5	25	7.33
4	150-200	22	4	15	4	3	3	51	14.96
5	200-250	24	8	12	17	10	2	73	21.41
6	250-300	11	5	16	12	7	2	53	15.54
7	300-350	10	12	5	7	8	0	42	12.32
8	350-400	13	10	6	3	0	2	34	9.97
9	400-450	7	3	7	3	4	0	24	7.04
10	450-500	1	3	2	1		1	8	2.35
11	500-550	2	1	2	0			5	1.47
12	550-600	1	3	1	1			6	1.76
13	600-650	2	0	2				4	1.17
14	650-700	0	1	0				1	0.29
15	700-750	1		1				2	0.59
16	750-800	1		2				3	0.88
17	800-850			2				2	0.59
18	850-900			0				0	0.00
19	900-950			1				1	0.29
20	950-1000			2				2	0.59
	Total	104	51	85	52	34	15	341	100.00

page categories. Overall, the distribution highlights a balanced and moderate length of scholarly writing, with limited extreme variations across institutions.

Table 12 and figure 10 represent that the bibliographical form-wise distribution of theses across

six universities show that Journal articles dominate the contribution. Book publications and Book Chapters form the next major categories, while formats like Grey Literature, Newsletter, and Others contribute only marginally across all institutions.

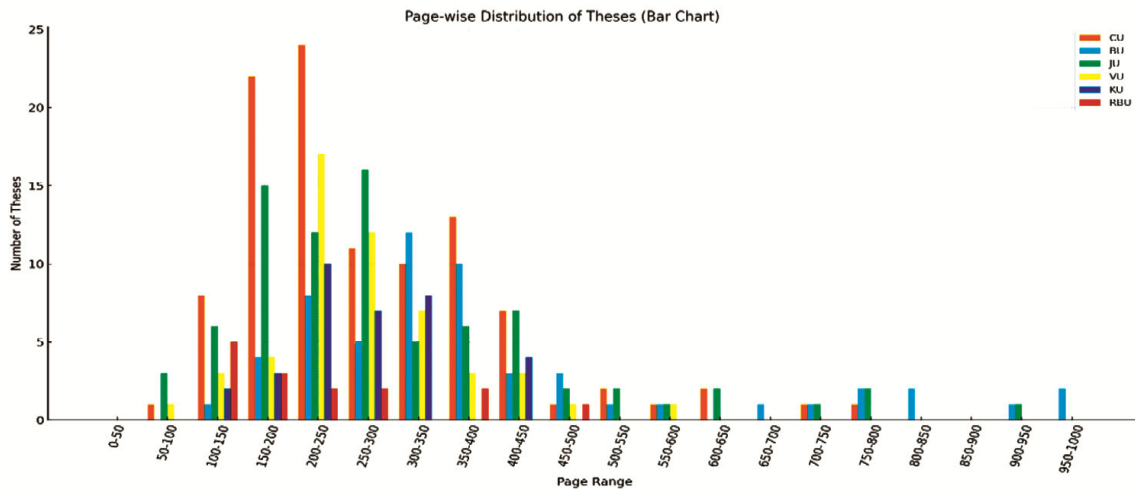


Fig. 9 — Page wise distribution of these

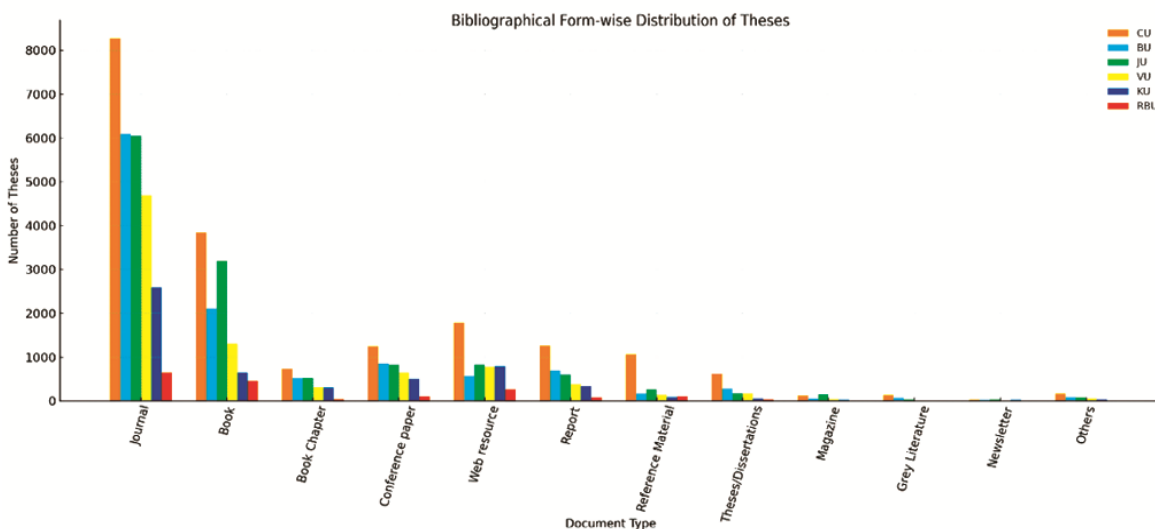


Fig. 10 — Bibliographical Form wise distribution of theses

Table 12 — Bibliographical Form wise distribution of theses

SL	Document type	CU	BU	JU	VU	KU	RBU
1	Journal	8277	6101	6053	4690	2600	659
2	Book	3842	2112	3194	1301	654	465
3	Book Chapter	732	518	520	313	302	40
4	Conference paper	1243	853	821	647	502	101
5	Web resource	1783	567	831	777	795	254
6	Report	1263	697	610	381	336	84
7	Reference Material	1059	170	258	138	94	101
8	Theses/Dissertations	613	284	167	164	60	32
9	Magazine	125	51	143	39	20	3
10	Grey Literature	140	70	37	9	6	7
11	Newsletter	25	17	37	10	22	2
12	others	161	89	85	48	34	6
	Total	19263	11529	12756	8517	5425	1754

Overall, Calcutta University records the highest total output (19,263), whereas Rabindra Bharati University shows the lowest (1,754).

6. Findings

- Year-wise and growth-wise analysis indicates a steady rise in LIS doctoral research, with a marked surge after 2010 (Tables 1 & 2). The highest concentration of submissions in the recent decade reflects increased research interest and improved institutional research infrastructure.
- Language-wise distribution (Table 9) shows the overwhelming dominance of English as the medium of doctoral research.
- Bibliographical form-wise distribution (Table 12) reveals that journal articles are the most heavily cited source across all six universities.
- A total of 341 LIS doctoral theses were produced by the six selected universities of West Bengal (Table 4 & Figure 3). The University of Calcutta contributed the highest number of theses (104) and the largest share of total citations (32.51%), establishing its leading position.
- Topic-wise analysis of doctoral research (Table 5.9) shows that Bibliometric Studies, Information Need & Seeking Behaviour, and Information System Design & Development are the most dominant research areas.
- Page-wise distribution (Table 11 indicates that the majority of doctoral theses fall within the 150–400 page range, reflecting a widely accepted structural norm for LIS doctoral dissertations.

7. Conclusion

The study reveals that the University of Calcutta emerges as the leading contributor in terms of thesis output and citations, followed by Jadavpur University. With a moderated output, the University of Burdwan shows a notable citation impact. Research trends indicate the dominance of the Bibliometric Studies, Information Need and Seeking Behaviour, and Information System Design and Development. This is reflecting both methodological strength and applied focus. The Chronological analysis of the research outputs shows a significant rise in doctoral submissions after 2010. Journal articles are found as the most

frequently cited references, followed by books. The English language has overwhelmingly dominated as the language of research. Overall, Library and Information Science Doctoral research in the universities of West Bengal reflects steady growth in intellectual depth, scholarly visibility, and future potential. More focus can be provided to the areas like AI integration in Libraries, Effective Use of AI and other latest technologies to increase the impact of libraries, Data Analytics in LIS Research, along with the theoretical aspects of the Core library and information science topics.

References

Conference Proceedings

- 1 Katagi, S., & Kumbar, B. D. (2021). *Trends of doctoral research in library and information science: A study of Shodhganga*. In Proceedings of the paper presented at the International Conference on *Marching Libraries from Traditional to Hybrid: Connecting, Communicating and Cooperating* (ICMLTH – 2021), Dept. of Library and Information Science, Karnatak University, Dharwad, 30th September and 1st October, 2021.

Periodicals

- 2 Chakrabarti, K., Mondal, D., & Maity, A. (2020). A trend analysis of the doctoral dissertations in LIS research in West Bengal, India (1979–2018). *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal).
- 3 Dutta, A., & Mandal, S. (2021). Trends and issues of doctoral research in library and information science: Recent scenario in the Indian perspective. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.24135.37281>
- 4 Kannappanavar, B. U., & Vijayakumar, M. (2000). Fifty years of LIS research in India: Trends and developments. *SRELS Journal of Information Management*, 37(4), 267–300. <https://doi.org/10.17821/srels/2000/v37i4/48932>
- 5 Kumbar, M., & Raju, V. N. (2008). Research productivity in library and information science in India during 1957–2006. *SRELS Journal of Information Management*, 45(1), 71–80. <https://doi.org/10.17821/srels/2008/v45i1/44157>
- 6 Mahapatra, R. K., & Sahoo, J. (2004). Doctoral dissertations in library and information science in India, 1997–2003: A study. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 51(2), 58–63.
- 7 Maity, B. K., & Hatua, S. R. (2015). Research trends of library management in LIS in India since 1950–2012. *Scientometrics*, 105(1), 337–346. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-015-1673-8>
- 8 Mondal, D., & Maity, A. (2013). Library and information science research in West Bengal: A bibliometric study. *Calcutta University Journal of Information Studies*, 15, 8–25.
- 9 Panigrahi, P. (2010). Library and information science education in East and North-East India: Retrospect and prospects. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, 30(5), 32–47. <https://doi.org/10.14429/djlit.30.5.613>
- 10 Rana, R. (2011). Research trends in library and information science in India with a focus on Panjab University,

- Chandigarh. *The International Information & Library Review*, 43(1), 23–30.
- 11 Sarkar, M. K., Maity, G., & Majumder, K. (2013). Doctoral research in library and information science in West Bengal during 1979–2012: The trend. *Librarian*, 20(1), 77–82.
- 12 Warkade, S. (2024). Research trends in doctoral dissertations in library and information science submitted to universities in Madhya Pradesh. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management*, 8, 1–5. <https://doi.org/10.55041/IJSREM33380>