

Postgraduate Students' Theses as a Source of Literature: a Citation Analysis between 2005-2010 in the Agriculture Library, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

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The Agriculture Library, used by postgraduate students at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, is underutilized in understanding citation usage among Master of Business Administration (MBA) students. This lack of insight hinders academic libraries' ability to evaluate resource usage and guide future collection development. A detailed citation analysis is needed to assess literature use patterns among MBA theses submitted. The period from 2005 to 2010 was selected to provide a manageable and meaningful sample size for bibliometric analysis, capturing half a decade of academic output. Additionally, these years represent a complete and archived set of MBA theses available at the Agriculture Library, ensuring consistency in data collection. The study examined 2783 citations from 46 MBA theses between 2005-2010, focusing on the literature form, citation sources, and authorship patterns. All the reference lists which were obtained from each MBA theses were analyzed individually. Data tabulation, percentage calculation, and graphical presentation of the data were carried out in alignment with the objectives of the study using Excel spreadsheets. It was revealed that journals and books were the most preferred sources of literature. Fifteen Journals were identified as most productive journals in the Business Administration field. The Journal of Business Venturing ranked first with 65 citations accounting for 5.03% of total citations and Journal of Small Business Management was ranked second with 4.49% of citations. The majority of contributors were two authors with 42.61% of all citations, followed by single authors with 33.99%. The data set fits with the Leimkuhler model of Bradford's law since the percentage error was negligible. The research outlined that researchers had used printed and open access journals in the Library and had accessed the open access journals in the web. According to the findings, some journals can be recommended for acquisition by the library to enhance the collection and provide better services to the postgraduate students. It is suggested to aware the postgraduate students regarding new databases subscribed by the Agriculture Library. It is necessary to conduct additional research on various postgraduate degrees in order to determine the literature that was employed in their studies.

Keywords: *Authorship patterns; Bradford law; Citation analysis; Leimkuhler model*