

Religion and Law Review: A Bibliometric Study (2015-2020)

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Abstract

Bibliometric study of a Journal reveals various characteristics relating to the articles published, references, authorship pattern, geographical affiliations of authors, author productivity, etc. in terms of quantity over a period of time and helps to determine the productivity of a journal. A peer reviewed and interdisciplinary journal "Religion and Law Review" taken as a source journal for this bibliometric study for the period 2015-2020. The study reveals the potential of the journal to flourish by increasing the visibility of scholarly contributions made to this journal through adopting a technology platform to increase its reach worldwide.

Keywords: Bibliometrics; Religion and Law Review; Authorship Pattern; Law Journal-Bibliometric Analysis.

INTRODUCTION

The term 'Bibliometrics' was introduced by Alan Pritchard (1969) and described as "the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication". Bibliometrics is one of the research methods used by library and information science professionals. Bibliometric study may be applied to a specific subject area to "evaluate the productivity of individual researcher, journals, countries or any other level of performance". (Andres, 2009). In case of bibliometric study of a journal various characteristics relating to the articles published,

references in articles, authorship pattern, geographical affiliations of authors, author productivity, etc. can be determined in terms of quantity over a period of time. The study helps to check the quantitative growth and productivity of the journal.

SOURCE JOURNAL: RELIGION AND LAW REVIEW (RLR)

"Religion and Law Review" (ISSN 0971-3212) is a peer reviewed journal published bi-annually/annually by the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), New Delhi. It is an interdisciplinary publication and a means of dissemination for research and scholarship since 1992. As stated in the journal, it covers scholarly discussion on various aspects of religion, law and other socio-legal issues. The periodical accords particular importance to the study of issues and events which are of contemporary concern, having a direct or indirect bearing on situations of minor or major religious groups and other underprivileged sections of the society. The

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Institute of Objective Studies was founded in March 1986 and registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 with the objectives to promote the purposive research, generate understanding and awareness of conceptual issues and current problems and highlight the ethical and moral dimensions of social dynamics. (Institute of Objective Studies, 2020).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A good number of bibliometric studies conducted on various journals over a period of time. Here few of the studies are discussed published after 2010 and relating to the present study.

Chaparwal & Rajput (2021) assessed 15 volumes of the "Journal of Information Literacy". The analysis reveals that out of 417 articles published during 2007 to 2021, the most productive year was 2018. 68.10% papers are single authored and average productivity per author is 1.55. Sonam Singh, Chauhan, & Singh (2020) analysed the Legal Scholarship published during 2000 to 2018 in the "Journal of the Indian Law Institute". It is observed that average 13 articles published per year while 22 articles published in 2003. Most of the articles are written by single authors and considered as good sign of publication pattern. The most prolific author was Virendra Kumar with 12 papers followed by K.I. Vibhute with 7 papers. M. Afzal Wani and Parmanand published 5 papers each. The range of cited sources goes from 4 to 290. The papers from 18 different countries published during the period of study.

Ali Raza & Malik (2018) conducted bibliometric analysis of the "Journal of Knowledge Management" for a period of 8 years (2009 to 2016). Total 508 articles contributed from 57 countries. The study also reveals most prolific authors and most productive countries.

Garg & Anjana (2014) analysed 605 articles from the "Journal of Intellectual Property Rights" published during 1996-2012. The results reveal that references per article are increasing and popularity of the journal is also increasing. There is a decline in single authored papers and increase in multi authored papers. The journal has good recognition out of India and 6.49% contributors are from USA. Academic and research institutions are highest contributors.

Singh & Bedi (2014) conducted a bibliometric study of the journal "Library Herald" published by the Delhi Library Association for 10 years (2003 to 2012) covering 40 issues and 234 articles. Average

23 articles published per year. Maximum articles (30) published in 2003 and minimum articles (14) published in 2005. Authorship pattern revealed that most of the articles (48.8%) are single authored. Majority of the authors (81.6%) is from India but most prolific author is from Iran with 16 papers. Average 11 references per articles found during the study period.

Jimoh, Eshiemokhai, & Hambali (2014) analysed "International Journal of Research in Education" on bibliographic parameters for the period 2004 to 2012. The study reveals that 94.2% contributors are from the Nigeria and 65.1% articles are single authored.

Jena, Swain, & Sahoo (2012) undertaken bibliometric analysis study of the "Journal of Financial Crime" for five volumes published during 2006 to 2010. The evaluation reveals that JFC is very consistent and publish around 30 articles per year. Like other journals single authored papers are highest. Total 155 papers published authored by 220 scholars from 41 different countries.

Harith & Singh (2014) studied bibliometric parameters of the 326 articles published in "Indian Journal of International Law". It is found that average reference per article is 70.1. Majority of the articles (97.55%) are single authored. Rahmatullah is the most prolific author with 9 papers followed by M. K. Nawaz with 7 papers. Almost 47% authors are from outside India. The study concludes that Indian Journal of International Law is a leading International Law Journal.

Thanuskodi (2010) conducted a study of the "Journal of Social Sciences" from the year 2003 to 2007. The journal published average 55 articles per year and 21.25% are contributed by single authors. The contribution from by foreign authors is 78.39%. Most of the articles (53.84%) have 5 to 10 references and documents cited were include journals, books, reference books, dissertations, seminar/conference proceedings, etc. but journal article was most preferred source.

The present study of the journal "Religion and Law Review" highlights the contribution of RLR and an addition towards purposive research as a goal of the publisher of this journal.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this bibliometric study are to identify the characteristics of the articles published in the journal "Religion and Law Review" during 2015 to 2020.

The following objectives are examined

- (a) Quantitative growth of articles published year-wise.
- (b) Distribution of references by volumes.
- (c) Range and percentage of references per article.
- (d) Authorship pattern of articles.
- (e) Productivity of authors
- (f) Ranked list of most prolific contributors.
- (g) Ranked list of authors by geographic affiliations.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

The study is focused on the articles published in RLR for the period 2015 to 2020. To study the characteristics and trends of article published in RLR, data of 58 articles from 6 volumes (Volume No. 24, 2015 to Volume No. 26, 2020) were collected for analysis. Book reviews, comments on cases and legislations, reports on conferences, notes, etc. were not taken into consideration for this study.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Quantitative growth of articles by year

Total 57 articles published in RLR during the period of six years under this study (Table 1). The range of articles published is between 5 and 14 which show a slight variation. The distribution table shows that maximum articles (25%) published in each year i.e. 2015 and 2020 followed by 2017 with 10 articles (18%).

Table 1: Number and percentage of articles by year

Year	No. of Articles	Percentage
2015	14	25
2016	6	11
2017	10	18
2018	5	9
2019	8	14
2020	14	25
Total	57	100

Distribution of references by volumes and years

Table 2 presents the distribution of references.⁷ The 57 articles contained a total of 2234 references or citations. The average of references per articles is maximum for the year 2019 (74) followed by 2018

(68). The average of references in articles varied from 22 to 74 with an average of 39 references for a period of six years.

Table 2: Distribution of references by volumes

Year	No. of Articles	No. of References per Volume	Average No. of References per Articles
2015	14	424	30
2016	6	129	22
2017	10	328	33
2018	5	342	68
2019	8	593	74
2020	14	418	30
Total	57	2234	39

Range and Percentage of citation per article

Table 3 depicts the range and percentage of references per article. Total 15 articles (26%) have references between 11 – 20 per articles followed by 10 articles (18%) having references between 31 – 40 per articles. Total 3 articles (5%) have more than 111 references and 4 articles (7%) have no citations.

Table 3: Range and Percentage of citation per article

No. of References per Articles	No. of Articles	Percentage
0	4	7
1 - 10	2	4
11 - 20	15	26
21 - 30	8	14
31 - 40	10	18
41 - 50	5	9
51 - 60	2	4
61 - 70	5	9
71 - 80	2	4
81 - 90	0	0
91 - 100	0	0
101 - 110	1	2
111 and above	3	5
Total	57	100

Authorship pattern

The authorship pattern reveals the individual or collaborative capacity of the researchers in a particular subject. Table 4 indicates that majority of the authors (77.20%) preferred to publish their paper as a single author. Contribution by two authors group is 21.05% and three authors group 1.75%.

Table 4: Authorship Pattern

Year	Single Author	Two Authors	Three Authors	Total
2015	13	1	0	14
2016	5	0	1	6
2017	6	4	0	10
2018	4	1	0	5
2019	6	2	0	8
2020	10	4	0	14
Total	44	12	1	57
Percentage	77.20%	21.05%	1.75%	100%

Ranked list of most prolific contributors

It is evident from the Table 5 that M. Afzal Wani is the most prolific contributor who is the present Editor of RLR and Professor of Law in G.G.S. Indraprastha University, Delhi. Other prolific authors include Gazala Sharif (G.G.S. Indraprastha University, Delhi), Rakesh Kumar (G.G.S. Indraprastha University, Delhi), Vandana Singh (G.G.S. Indraprastha University, Delhi) who have contributed four papers during the period taken under study. Majority of the contributors are academicians.

Table 5: Ranked list of most Prolific contributors

Rank	Author's Name	No. of Contributors
1	M. Afzal Wani	10
2	Gazala Sharif	4
2	Rakesh Kumar	4
2	Vandana Singh	4
3	Arvind Jasrotia	2
3	Deepali Vashisth	2
3	Jai S. Singh	2
3	Mohd Yasin Wani	2
3	Naveed Naseem	2
3	Ravinder Kumar	2
4	Other 37 Authors	1

Ranked list of Author by geographic affiliation

The table-6 reveals the state wise distribution of articles published in RLR. Only one author contributed from out of India. The journal received maximum article (62%) from Delhi based researchers followed by the Jammu and Kashmir with 20% authors. Authors contributing from Uttar Pradesh are 8% and the contribution of authors from the states like Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha is not so significant and no contribution from remaining states during the study period. Hence, the data shows that RLR has limited geographical scope.

Table 6: Ranked list of Author by geographic affiliation

Indian States and Union Territories / foreign countries	Frequency	Percentage
Delhi	44	62%
Haryana	2	3%
Jammu& Kashmir	14	20%
Madhya Pradesh	1	1%
Odisha	1	1%
Rajasthan	2	3%
Uttar Pradesh	6	8%
Other States	0	0%
Out of India	1	1%
Total	71	100%

CONCLUSION

The Religion and Law Review is being published from last three decades and attracting authors mostly from Delhi and nearby states. This Journal has potential to flourish as its publisher is a well-established organisation with defined mission and objectives. There is a need to increase the visibility of scholarly contributions made to this journal. As the technology has transformed the publishing industry, the "Religion and Law Review" should adopt a technology platform to increase its reach worldwide.

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