

Research productivity of Social Science departments as reflected in INDCAT: A study of Karnataka University, Dharwad

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Abstract

Bibliographic utility networks are providing access to bibliographic databases by pooling catalogue records from different libraries. INDCAT is an important bibliographic database of books, journals, and Doctoral Theses of Indian Universities and major Institutions of higher education, hosted by INFLIBNET. In this article an effort has been made to study the research contribution of the Departments of social science, Karnatak University, Dharwad (KUD) based on the Doctoral Theses records available in INDCAT.

Keywords: INDCAT, Indian catalogue, Bibliographic Database, Online Union Catalogue, Doctoral Theses. Social Sciences.

1. Introduction:

With the wide variety of sources and their rapidly growing nature, it is difficult for user to get the right information in the ocean of digital information unless the information is properly organized. In this respect, to provide efficient bibliographic services several large-scale digital library research projects have been undertaken all over the world to bring out appropriate solutions to cataloguing and other problems. In India such initiative was taken by INFLIBNET by creating INDCAT, a major bibliographic database of Indian universities which facilitates resource sharing amongst participating universities and provides quick and simultaneous search from collections distributed across the country in various university libraries.

The union database contains bibliographic description, location and holdings information for books, journals and theses in all subject areas housed in more than 145 university/institute libraries across the country. A Web-based interface is designed to

provide easy access to merged catalogue with holdings information. The INDCAT is a major source of bibliographic information that can be used for inter-library loan, collection development as well as for copy cataloguing and retro-conversion of bibliographic records. The INDCAT is available in open access from the INFLIBNET Centre's web site.

- 2. Brief profile of Karnatak University:** Karnatak University, Dharwad (KUD) is the second oldest University in Karnataka located at Pavate Nagar Dharwad. The University was established in the year 1949, during the last 63 years, the University has made tremendous progress in the research and development activities. During the last five years as many as 273 books and 2280 research papers have been published by the University faculty. The University is proud of some of its fraternity being the recipients of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, FNAs, American Patents and other significant recognitions. There are 48 postgraduate departments and recently the University was awarded “University with a Potential for Excellence” (UPE status) by the UGC, as part of it the University has been presided with 50 crore Grants. In 2001 the University was accredited by the NAAC with a “5 star” status and again reassessed in 2007 and awarded “A” Grade.
- 3. Objectives of the study:** The major objective of the study is to find out the research productivity in terms of doctoral theses by the Departments of Social Science, Karnatak University, Dharwad to the INDCAT database, other objectives are;
 - a) To know the most productive Departments of Social Science from Karnatak University.
 - b) To know the most productive research guides in the departments of social science from Karnatak University.
- 4. Scope and limitations of the study:** The present study covers the 729 Doctoral theses records available in INDCAT from Departments of Social Science, Karnataka University, Dharwad accessed during the period of 24.04.2013 to 27.12.2013.
- 5. Methodology:** The data was collected from INDCAT bibliographic database hosted by the INFLIBNET web site <http://indcatinflibnet.ac.in> , which is a major source of bibliographic information of the Doctoral theses that are submitted to various Universities/ Institutions in India which come under the ambit of INFLIBNET, later the results presented for drawing inferences.

6. Results and Discussion:

Ranking of Departments of Social Science and their contribution to the INDCAT

Sl. No	Department	No. of Theses	Cumulative	%
1	Economics	242	242	33.10
2	History	100	342	13.73
3	Political science	99	441	13.59
4	Library and Information Science	84	525	11.53
5	Sociology	60	585	8.24
6	Philosophy	42	627	5.76
7	Psychology	35	662	4.80
8	Mass communication and Journalism	27	689	3.70
9	Criminology	24	713	3.29
10	Social work	16	729	2.19
11	Jainology	00	-	-
12	Electronic media	00	-	-

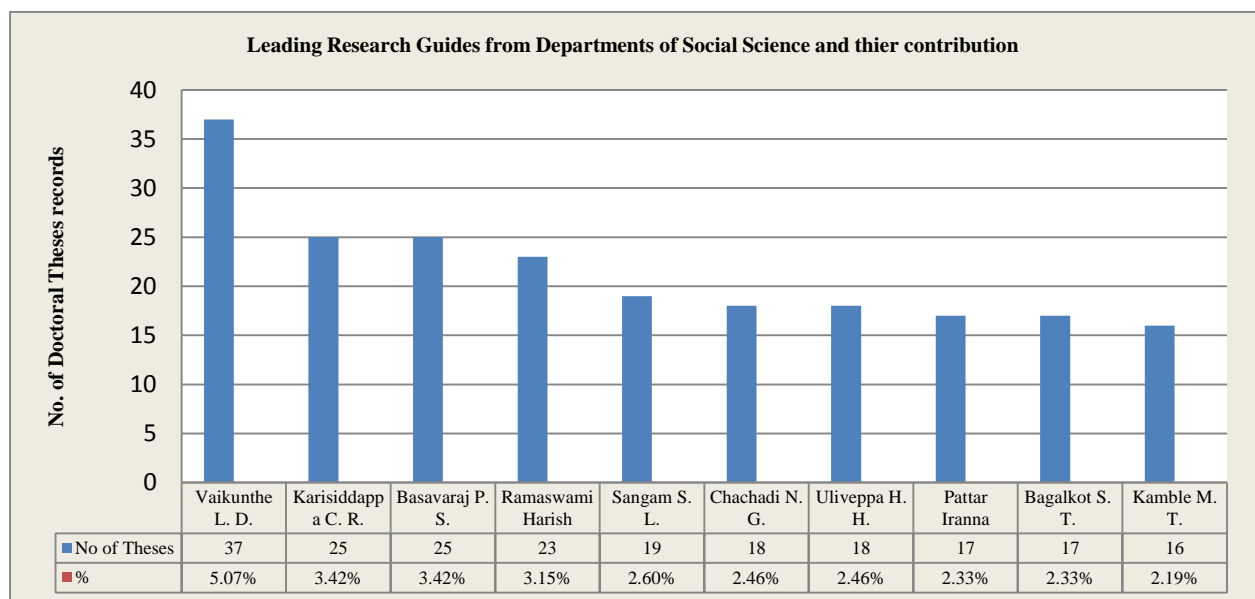
The above table reveals the ranking of various Departments of Social Sciences from Karnatak University, Dharwad. It is found that Department of Economics is most productive which has contributed 242 Doctoral Theses records which accounts for 33.10% to the total, while the Department of History occupied the second position with 100 Doctoral Theses records which constitutes 13.73%, and the Department of Political Science stands third, which has contributed 99 Doctoral Theses records with share of 13.59 % in the total, followed by Department of Library and Information Science and others as reflected in the table.

In continuation of the above, after collection and systematic analysis of the data, efforts have been made to list out some of the prominent research guides from each department and their research contribution in terms of Doctoral Theses records available at INDCAT. It is found that among research guides from the Department of Economics, Vaikunthe L. D. with 37 (15.28%), Chachadi N. G. & Uliveppa H. H. both with 18 (7.43%) and Bagalkot S. T. with 17(7.02%) Doctoral theses records are major contributors. From the Department of History, Pattar Iranna 17 (17%), Kamble M. T. 16 (16%) and Rajshekhar S. with 15 (15%) Doctoral Theses records are found to be most productive. In the Department of Political Science Ramaswami Harish 23 (23.33%), Kittur A. T. and Patagundi S. S. with 11 Doctoral Theses records each contributed 11.11% to the total. Department of Library and

Information Science which occupied fourth position, the major contributors are Karisiddappa, C.R. 25 (29.27%), Sangam, S. L. 19 (22.61%) followed by Kumbar, M. R. with 10 doctoral theses records (11.90%). Somashekarappa C. A. 12 (20%), Mudbidri A.G. 9 (15%) and Azim S. 8 (13.33%) are found to be prolific research guides from the Department of Sociology by contributing major share to the total.

Further, in the Department of Philosophy Basavaraj P. S. is found to be most productive with 25 (59.59%) followed by Ingahalli R. E. 8 (19.04%) and Shah J. K. 4 (9.52%). In Department of Psychology, Halyal P. S., Mallappa K. R. and Amnabhavi V. are most productive research guides who are having share of 10 (28.57%), 9 (9.25%), 5 (14.28%) doctoral theses records respectively. With the above table it can be observed that the remaining departments are lagging behind with their meager contribution which is very less in comparison with the top ranking departments. From the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Gangadharappa M. contributed 12 Doctoral Theses records which accounts for 44.44%, followed by Balasubramanya A. S. 10 (37.03%) and Mariswamy H. K. 5 (18.51%). Kubsad contributed 9 doctoral theses records which accounts for 37.5%, while Nagur S. C. contributed 6 (25%) followed by Gireppagaudar B.S. 3 (12.5%) are found to be most productive research guides from the Department of Criminology and Forensic Science. With meager share i.e, 2.19% to the total contribution from the Department of Social Work which stands at the bottom of the table, Bidarkappa G. S 5 (31.25%), Patil S. R. 4 (25%) and Ganihar 2 (12.5) are leading research guides in the department.

Figure, Leading Research Guides from Departments of Social Science and their contribution.



The figure reflects that the most productive and prolific Research Guides in Social Science stream from KUD. Vaikunthe L. D., Department of Economics with highest number of Doctoral theses i.e. 37 is the most productive which constitutes 5.07% to the total, while the Karisiddappa C.R. from the Department of Library and Information Science and Basavraj P. S. from Department of Philosophy with the contribution of 25 Doctoral Theses records by each which accounts for 3.42% to the total contribution are found to be among top 3. Ramaswamy Harish from the Department of Political Science who has contributed 23 Doctoral theses records which constitutes 3.15%, followed by Sangam S. L. with 19 (2.60%) from the Department of Library and Information Science, Chachdi N. G. with 18 (2.46%) and others stood in their respective positions as reflected in the figure.

Findings of the Study:

Major findings of the study are as below:

- 1) It can be observed from the above study that there are 12 Departments which come under the ambit of Social science, out of which 10 Departments together contributed 729 Doctoral theses records to the INDCAT and other two Departments have not contributed their share to the total.
- 2) The study reveals that in the list of contributed 10 departments, Department of Economics has found most productive with 242 Doctoral Theses records which constitutes its share of 33.10% in the total stands at the top of the table. While the Department of History secured the second position with 100 Doctoral Theses records which accounts for 13.59%, followed by Department of Political Science contributing 99 Doctoral Theses records with the share of 11.53% in the total contribution by the Departments of Social Science to the INDCAT.
- 3) From the above study it is found that, Vaikunthe L. D. from the Department of Economics is the most productive Research Guide with the contribution of 37 Doctoral Theses records which accounts for 5.07%. Followed by Karisiddappa C. R. from the Department of Library and Information Science and Basavaraj P. S. Department of Philosophy with 25 Doctoral Theses records each which constitutes 3.42% and Ramaswami Harish, Department of Political Science stands in the third position with 23 Doctoral Theses records which accounts for 3.15% in the total contribution by the Departments of Social Science to the INDCAT.

Conclusion and Suggestions:

Bibliographic databases are a vital source of secondary information for the researchers and academicians to search and access to most relevant literature in their area of interest. Current bibliographic databases were preceded by printed publications, may be in the form of union catalogues. However with the advent of computer applications the traditional printed publications gave way to electronic databases in most cases. INDCAT is a major source of bibliographic information of Indian Universities/ Institutions hosted by INFLIBNET, for the scholarly communication among academic communities in India. In this article an effort has been made to analyze the INDCAT records of Doctoral theses submitted to the Karnatak University, Dharwad from the Departments which come under the ambit of Social Science stream. It is found from the study that large portion of the contribution is shared by top 5 Departments. It is also observed that though the INDCAT Bibliographic database is considered to be a major source of bibliographic information in India, it needs to be updated regularly and measures need to be taken to make it mandatory to submit the records of the Doctoral Theses soon after the award of Doctoral Degrees at various Universities/ Institutions which come under the ambit of INFLIBNET. If the INDCAT updated regularly it can be a vital bibliographic tool to measure the research productivity of different Universities, Institutions, Departments and Individuals.

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