



MULTIDISCIPLINARY RECENT TRENDS IN

RESEARCH VOL 2

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RESEARCH IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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❖ ABSTRACT:

This article explains that the research's main goal is to aid in the instruction of the skills required for a librarian to do thorough, basic research. A person undertaking applied research should gain from having a thorough understanding of fundamental research methodologies because many of the approaches, principles, and methods used in basic research are applicable to applied research. Many of the concepts and methods covered in this book must be applied to the specific project at hand by the librarian who wishes to conduct a cost study, assess the effectiveness of his or her library, or survey the library's patrons. More thorough study yields more beneficial findings, whether they are fundamental or applied in nature.

Keywords: Research, Basic research, Library and Information Science Research, Research in Library Science.

❖ INTRODUCTION:

The specialization and difficulty of research have increased, and this has resulted in another development known as the professionalization of research. There are many different ways to define the word "profession." Everyone agrees that it should be one's principal paid occupation, demand a high level of specialized knowledge, and necessitate upholding appropriate levels of competence both personally and within the professional group. The fact that research satisfies these requirements was first broadly known in the decades around 1800. This is not to say that there weren't any types of professional researchers before 1800. Medicine is a typical profession, and many of its practitioners were well-known researchers long before then.

Similar to surveying, which was a respected profession in Europe before European settlers arrived, certain surveyors in America made contributions to early research. However, in almost all of these instances, the research was seen as a supplement to their work rather than an integral part of it. Even in the academic realm, teaching remained the primary basis for a professor or college fellow's position, despite the fact that a few of them made research contributions.

Over the course of the nineteenth century, the idea that university positions should necessitate expertise in both teaching and research progressively gained popularity. Germany once more set the standard. In order to fill their universities with the most accomplished faculty, the several German states competed. The easiest way to judge such greatness was by the publications they had made. Professors hired research assistants to aid in the creation of their research agendas. These students need a

certification of their research abilities, and as a result, the Ph.D. granting process developed. Both German and international students—not least from the US and the UK—were drawn to German institutions because of their reputation for research and the availability of doctorates.

For libraries and information centers to operate efficiently in a nation, it is crucial for library and information workers. Education in libraries is professional education. Its goal is to train personnel to manage various levels of library establishments. With the increasing use of information technology, the area of research in librarianship has changed recently. In this new environment, library science has a wide range of study opportunities in the field of library and information science instruction. The introduction of computers and automation in libraries has brought about new components in library housekeeping operations in acquisition, processing, and circulations.

❖ BASIC RESEARCH:

"Research is best conceived as the process of arriving at reliable solutions to problems through the planned and systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data," Mouly said.

Quantitative and qualitative research can also be contrasted. "Quantitative research methods involve a problem-solving approach that is highly structured in nature and that depends, where possible, on the quantification of concepts for purposes of measurement and evaluation." In order to understand why people behave the way they do, qualitative research approaches concentrate on witnessing events from the viewpoint of those involved. They approach issue solving for research in a more organic way. To examine and report behaviours and occurrences, several research initiatives combine quantitative and qualitative research approaches.

❖ LIBRARY RESEARCH:

Shera claims that Ralph Beals originally divided library books into three categories: glad tidings, testimonies, and research, noting that the third category was underrepresented.

In his book on library research, Goldhor divided library literature into four categories with regard to research: (1) a relatively small body of published research as defined in the narrow sense; (2) a larger amount of published and unpublished services studies; (3) an even larger number of reports or descriptions of specific situations; or simply opinions; and (4) original data.

❖ TRENDS IN LIBRARY RESEARCH:

According to Losee and Worley, "There is a tendency among information professionals to write and publish in the 'How I done it good' genre, a genre that is very situation-specific." In summary, as was already said and was also stated in Busha and Harter's textbook, the majority of library-related research has been applied in nature. Research in librarianship was the focus of a Library Trends issue published in 1984, which also covered research in the fields of political science, sociology, economics of libraries, organisation theory, public administration, and operations research. As a result, this work established a methodology and subject classification for library research. This issue's first chapter of Library

It's important for the librarian to remember that this procedure is typically circular. If the original question is not satisfactorily addressed by the researcher's analysis and interpretation of the study's findings, more research will need to be conducted. A graphic created by Leedy and Ormrod, replicated as Figure 1 below, aids in demonstrating the circular nature of research. Every researcher quickly learns that genuine research produces as many issues as it fixes, as they put it. Such is the way that information is discovered.

❖ BASIC RESEARCH IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE IS EXPANDING:

New knowledge creation is one of the main goals of fundamental research, as was already said. The goal of science is to advance knowledge, advance progress, and help man relate to his environment, achieve his goals, and resolve his conflicts. Experience and common sense are frequently quite limited and inadequate—and frequently quite incorrect—in this regard. In Mouly, p. The best foundation for continued professional development, according to Kunge, is learning to master both conceptually and practically the laws of research. To advance the profession, however, "the field must test the various myths, assumptions, rules-of-thumb, and other conventions by which it has operated for so long, to link concepts which have been proven through testing to be valid, and thereby establish theories indigenous to the field itself," according to one author.

According to "Putting OUR Knowledge to Work: The Role of Research in Special Libraries," the field of library and information science has less research sponsored by grants and published in peer-reviewed journals than other fields.⁵⁴ The declaration outlines how researchers, SLA, and special librarians may collaborate to advance the library and information profession and lay the groundwork for evidence-based practise.

❖ RESEARCH IN LIBRARIES IN THE FUTURE:

The fact that library research is still in its infancy can at least in part be blamed for the historical shortcomings of this field of study. Only recently have coherent notions of the purposes, methods, and frameworks of library science research started to take shape. (Busha, p6.)

However, it does seem clear that in order to study the numerous issues facing librarianship today, it will be "necessary to use the methodology of other disciplines—in particular, those of sociology, psychology, economics, linguistics, and history—and to employ more generally applicable methodologies."

It is always difficult to predict the future, but research in LIS will probably continue to incorporate more multidisciplinary and qualitative methods. Studies addressing the impacts and use of digital resources and technology are currently represented in the literature and will likely continue to pique interest in researchers and practitioners as the resources and technologies evolve and library users become more sophisticated in their demands for and use of these resources.

❖ CONCLUSION:

The number, if not the quality, of research in library and information science is improving, and research is a never-ending process. Additionally, there is hopefully growing understanding of the ALA's statement from 40 years ago that "the outcomes of research in a broad spectrum of effort extending well beyond librarianship will, in large measure, determine the future directions of library services and the nature of the profession itself."

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