

Domain Analysis of D-Lib Magazine: A Bibliometric Study

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Abstract

The presented study categorized all articles into research and non-research articles, for analyzing subject coverage of articles and publication trend, and identifying prolific author of *D-Lib Magazine* of the period 2001-2010. Research and non-research articles were classified under 23 subjects to identify the subject coverage of *D-Lib Magazine*. The study found a negative growth in both type of articles over the period. Most of the research articles written on Digital library, Repository, Archives, E-resources, Digital Inclusion, Interoperability, Database while Library management, Digital right management system and digital inclusion were the most popular topic among non-research articles. Van de Sompel, H. (Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA) is the most prolific author of the research articles and Arms, W.Y. (Cornell University, USA) for non-research articles.

Keywords

D-Lib Magazine; Journal; Research articles; Non-research article; Prolific Authors

Introduction

Journal is a primary source of information. It has traditionally been one of the most significant channels for publishing research. The journal's literature of any discipline reflects the critical issues of a field. This approach suggests the analysis of the published literature on a subject reveal the evolution, state-of-the-art, theoretical base, maturity and future directions of the same. *D-Lib Magazine* (D-Lib), one of the very first manifestations of the "born digital" generation of journals was launched in July 1995. *D-Lib Magazine* is an open access, electronic only scholarly journal, and it publishes articles in fields related to digital library research and development, including new technologies, applications, and contextual social and economic issues. *D-Lib Magazine* appeals to a broad technical and professional audience. The primary goal of the magazine is timely and efficient information exchange for the digital library community to help digital libraries be a broad interdisciplinary field, and not a set of specialties that know little of each other.

D-Lib Magazine was published by Corporation for National Research Initiatives and made available to the scholars for the advancement of knowledge and practice on digital library research and related matters but from July 2016, it suspended publication of new issues (*D-Lib Magazine*, 2017). Since July 1995 to April 2006, the journal was sponsored by The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), U.S. on behalf of the Digital Libraries Initiative under Grant No. N66001-98-1-8908, and by the National Science Foundation (NSF) under Grant No. IIS-0243042. Latter, contributions by subscribers to the D-Lib Alliance provided financial support for the continued open access publication of *D-Lib Magazine*; in particular, D-Lib thanks Crossref, and Hesburgh Libraries at University of Notre Dame, from 2007 through 2016.

Review of Literature

The growing maturity of a subject is revealed a great deal by published journals' articles. Some related studies have been reviewed to know the approaches that have been made in last two decades.

Nour's study (1985) examined 1404 articles of the issues of forty-one selected LIS core journals of 1980 to identify methodology of each article and classified them by subject and categorized all articles under two broader category- research articles and non-research articles. She also analyzed references, endnotes, and bibliographies. He found that the amount of research continued to increase, but the proportion of research articles to all articles had been decreasing since 1975. Feehan et al. (1984) analyzed the issues and trends in library and information science research published in 91 English language journal articles during 1984. They identified all substantive articles and then examined the random sample of those articles, classifying each

article as either research or non-research. The characteristics that they investigated include the subject dispersion of research activities and the type of libraries on which the research centers.

Koufogiannakis, Slater and Crumley (2004) examined 2644 articles of 91 peer-reviewed journals of Library and information science research journals and only 807 of them categorized as research articles. They found that Access and Retrievals, Management, Education, Reference, Library professional issues and Library History were the major areas of library and information science domain.

Tigga, Lihitker and Rajyalakshmi (2005) conducted a content analysis of 33 issues of 'DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology' published during January 1997 to July 2002. It reveals Information technology, Bibliographic databases, and Collection development were the largest coverage. Mukherjee (2009) analyzed 17 open access published uninterruptedly journals of the period 2001-2004 for studying subject coverage of open access journals and found that these journals have very vast subject coverage and almost all facets of Library and Information Science was covered. Open access journals were also found as a most viable media for scholarly communication.

Various scholars used content analysis method to identify subject coverage of journals such as; Järvelin and Vakkari (1993) analyze 950 articles form Core LIS journals during 1965 to 1985 and find Information storage, and Information retrievals were the interested topic of the time.. Kajberg (1996) conducted a content analysis of literature published in two journals in Denmark during 1957-1986. The results of the analysis reveal strong concerns with practical librarianship and action and current events-oriented topics (Cooperation, Network and Resource sharing) whereas the theoretical aspects of librarianship and the areas of information science have received scant attention. Koufogiannakis, Slater and Crumley (2004) examined 2644 articles of 91 peer-reviewed journals of Library and information science research journals and only 807 of them categorized as research articles. They found that Access and Retrievals, Management, Education, Reference, Library professional issues and Library History were the major areas of library and information science domain.

Mukherjee (2009) analyzed 17 open access published uninterruptedly journals of the period 2001-2004 for studying subject coverage of open access journals and found that these journals have very vast subject coverage and almost all facets of Library and Information Science was covered. Open access journals were also found as a most viable media for scholarly communication. Tuomaala, Järvelin and Vakkari (2014) examined the subject coverage of LIS from 1965 to 2005 in light of comparable data sets for 1965, 1985, and 2005 and found that Information retrieval has been the most popular area of research over the years.

Objectives of the study

This study has been made keeping following objectives in mind:

1. To identify growth rate of research and non-research articles
2. To identify the subject coverage of research and non- research articles
3. To identify prolific authors in both type of articles of *D-Lib Magazine*.

Materials and Methods

A set of document used for the study consists of 403 full-text journals' articles, published in the year 2001 to 2010 in *D-Lib Magazine*. A journal article has been defined as an article appearing in journals, with exception of editorials, letter to editor, comments on letter to editor, reminiscences, feature report, news items, columns, Historical notes, book reviews, book list, bibliographies, short communication, world flash, opinion, conference report, correction and obituaries etc. (Enger et al, 1989). In the perspective of these objectives, all selected articles published in *D-Lib Magazine* are the unit of analysis and each of them was examined and categorised into research and non-research articles (Walia & Kaur, 2012; Dilevko, 2007; Koufogiannakis, D. Slater and Crumley, 2004). The functional definitions of research and non-research article (Agrahari, 2017) are adopted for the study:

1. Research Article

Research article is any article that deals with primary data and carried out by systematic investigation and contribute either to conceptual framework or provide new primary data or new technique/model, and includes introduction, background of study or literature review, objectives, hypothesis, Methodology, tools for analysis, result or data analysis and findings, discussion, reconditions and references or bibliography as body of articles.

2. Non- Research Article

The journal articles which do not come under the level of a research article, contain the knowledge already existing in public domain and don't report any original idea and technique have been considered as Non-Research Articles such as review article, Informative article, evaluative article, project reports etc.

In the light of objectives, research and non-research articles have been analyzed. Scholar has assigned subject to each article on the basis of abstract, keywords and content, in a non-parametric way. Each article was assigned to only one subject category on the basis of emphasis or perceives intent of the article. For conducting the study, the content of each article or paper was scanned and the relevant information (Title of Article, Type of article, Subject of the article,

Year of Publication, the name of primary and secondary author, Volume and Issue No.) recorded in a spreadsheet and analyzed.

Results

This section analyzed the subject coverage of research and non-research articles published in *D-Lib Magazine*. All the articles selected for study have been classified under 22 subjects (see Table 2).

1. Distribution of Research and Non-Research Articles

The distributions of research and non-research articles of *D-Lib Magazine* of the period 2001-2010, are presented in the Table 1 There are 190 (47.15%) articles are research articles and 213 (52.85%) articles are non-research articles.

During the year 2001-2004, the share of the Non-research article was larger than the share of a research article. However, the share of research article increased and become larger than the share of non-research, during the year 2005-2009.

Table 1. Distribution of research and non- research articles of *D-Lib Magazine*

Years	Journal's Articles				Total Articles
	Research		Non-Research		
	No.	%	No.	%	
2001	18	40.00	27	60.00	45
2002	17	35.42	31	64.58	48
2003	24	47.06	27	52.94	51
2004	22	55.00	18	45.00	40
2005	25	46.30	29	53.70	54
2006	23	51.11	22	48.89	45
2007	21	63.64	12	36.36	33
2008	16	59.26	11	40.74	27
2009	17	54.84	14	45.16	31
2010	7	24.14	22	75.86	29
Overall (2001-2010)	190	47.15	213	52.85	403

Research articles and Non-research articles both have a steep downtrend line that can be seen in Figure 1 which indicates the constant negative growth of research articles and non-research articles during the period.

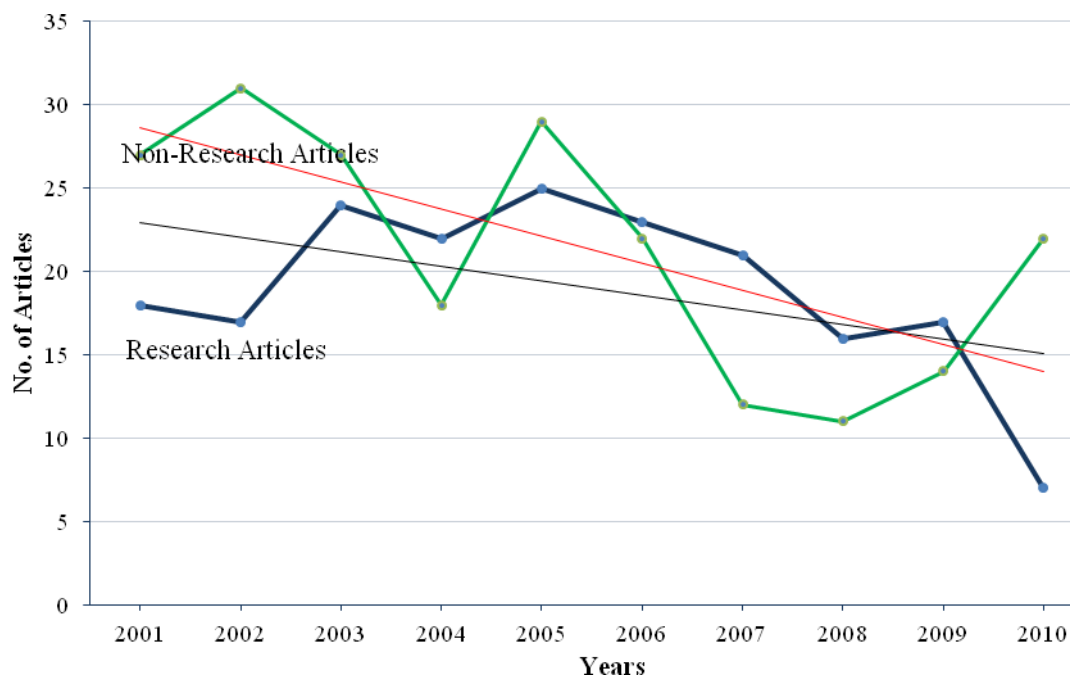


Figure 1. Distribution of research and non-research articles of *D-Lib Magazine*

The curve (see Figure 5.5.4) of non-research articles is below to research article's curve from 2004 to 2010 excluding 2005 and 2010, which indicates the larger share of research articles during the period.

1.1. Subject wise Distribution of Research Articles

The Subject-wise distribution of research articles published in *D-Lib Magazine* tabulated in Table 2 reveals that the highest number of articles that is 14 (14.81%) were published on the subject Digital library during the year 2001-2004, followed by E-resource with 9 (11.11%) articles and Bibliometric study with 9 (11.11%) articles. The other seven major subjects that covered 34 (41.97%) research articles were Library Management with 8 (9.88%) articles, Metadata with 5 (6.17%) articles, Digital Reference Service with 5 (6.17%) articles, Information Retrievals with 4 (4.94%) articles, Archives with 4 (4.94%) articles, Preservation with 4 (4.94%) articles, and Database with 4 (4.94%) articles.

In reference to the period 2005-2007, Table 2 shows that a total number of 13 (18.8%) articles were contributed on the subject Repository that acquired the highest number of article in the year. The other important subjects which achieved more attention of scholars are Archives and Digital library, both subjects appeared with 10 (14.5%) articles each, but the digital library bagged lesser article in comparison to the previous period. The subject Internet and Interoperability appeared with 3 (4.3%) articles each, Social networking, and Intellectual property rights with 2 (2.9%) articles each, got better coverage in this period. While subjects like Bibliometric study, Library Management, Metadata, and Information Retrieval did not cover the numbers of articles as much as covered in previous period 2001-2004.

The data of the period 2008-2010 from Table 2 clearly indicates that all listed subjects in the table, unable to contribute a good number of research articles in comparison to previous years 2005-2007. The subject Repository studies contributed the maximum number of articles 6(15.0%) followed by the Digital Library, and Bibliometric study each with 5 (12.5%) articles. The topic Digitalization, Internet, Information retrieval each contributed 3 (7.5%) articles consequently. Overall, the observation of the period 2001-2010 (see Figure 2), It could be remarked that subjects Digital Library 27 (14.2%), Repository 19 (10.0%), Bibliometric study 17(8.9) and Archives 15 (7.9%) was the major area for research articles. However, the subject such as E-resources, and Library management received equal attention and each contributed 14 (7.4%) articles.

Table 2. Distribution of research articles by *D-Lib Magazine* subject

S. No.	Subjects	Research articles in							
		2001-2004		2005-2007		2008-2010		2001-2010	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Digital Library	12	14.81	10	14.49	5	12.50	27	14.21
2	Repository	0	0.00	13	18.84	6	15.00	19	10.00
3	Bibliometric study	9	11.11	3	4.35	5	12.50	17	8.95
4	Archives	4	4.94	10	14.49	1	2.50	15	7.89
5	E-Resource	9	11.11	3	4.35	2	5.00	14	7.37
6	Library Management	8	9.88	4	5.80	2	5.00	14	7.37
7	Internet	3	3.70	3	4.35	3	7.50	9	4.74
8	Information Retrieval	4	4.94	2	2.90	3	7.50	9	4.74
9	Metadata	5	6.17	2	2.90	1	2.50	8	4.21
10	Preservation	4	4.94	1	1.45	2	5.00	7	3.68
11	Database	4	4.94	2	2.90	0	0.00	6	3.16
12	Digital Reference Service	5	6.17	1	1.45	0	0.00	6	3.16
13	Search engine	2	2.47	1	1.45	2	5.00	5	2.63
14	Digitalization	0	0.00	1	1.45	3	7.50	4	2.11
15	Open URL	2	2.47	1	1.45	1	2.50	4	2.11
16	Social Networking	0	0.00	2	2.90	2	5.00	4	2.11
17	Computer Science	1	1.23	2	2.90	0	0.00	3	1.58
18	Interoperability	0	0.00	3	4.35	0	0.00	3	1.58
19	Intellectual Property Right	0	0.00	2	2.90	1	2.50	3	1.58
20	Digital Image	2	2.47	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.05
21	Digital Right Management System	1	1.23	1	1.45	0	0.00	2	1.05
22	Digital Inclusion	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
23	Digital Object Identifier	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Miscellaneous	6	7.41	2	2.90	1	2.50	9	4.74
	Total	81	100	69	100	40	100	190	100

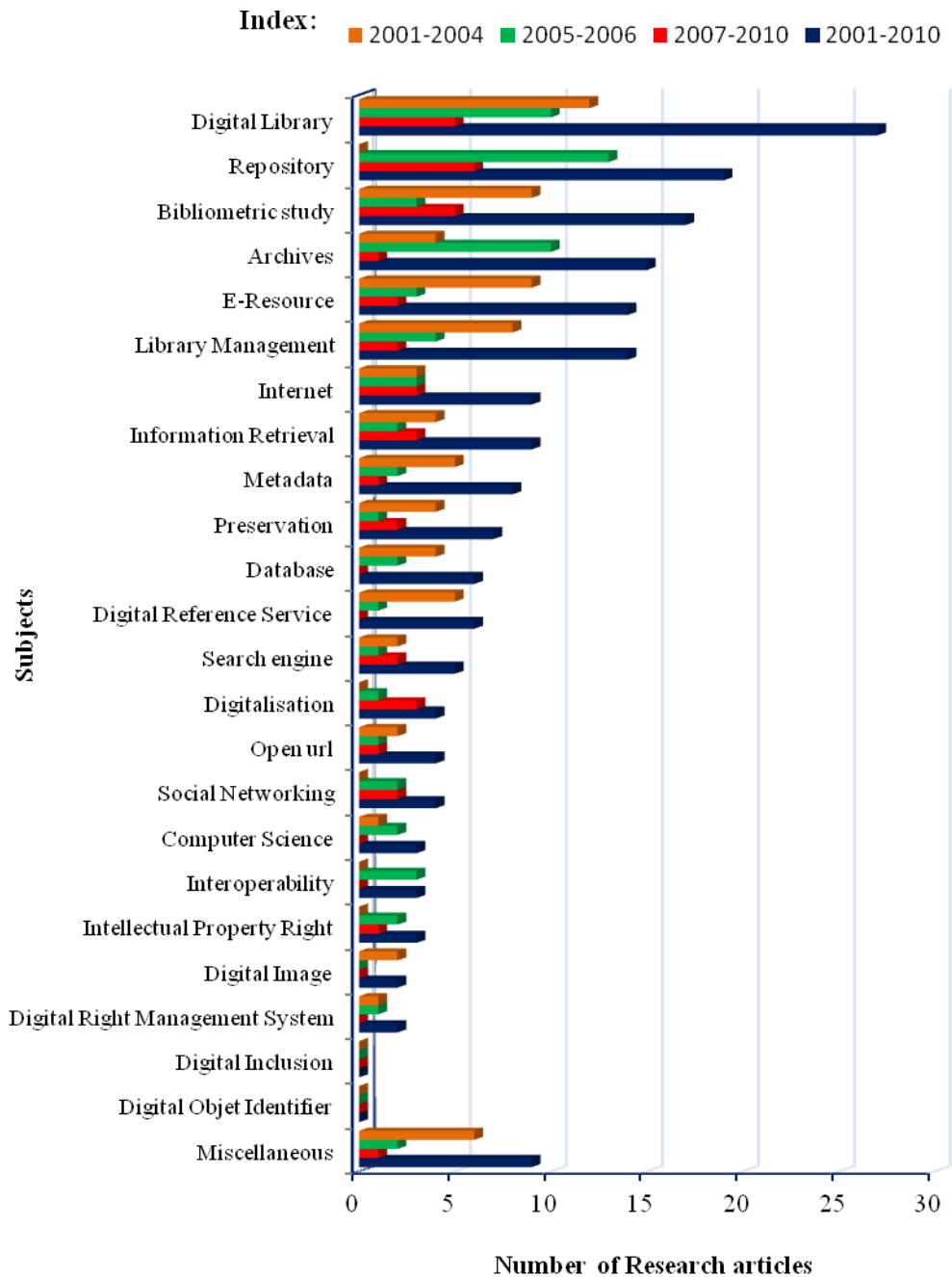


Figure 2. Distribution of research articles of *D-Lib Magazine* by subject

1.2. Subject wise Distribution of Non-research Articles

Table 3 shows the subject coverage of non-research articles. It reveals that 103 non-research articles were published during the period 2001-2004. It included 15 (14.6%) articles on Library Management, 14 articles (13.6%) on Interoperability, 10 articles (9.7%) on Digital right management system, 8 articles (7.8%) on Digital Library, and 7 articles (6.8%) on Database.

Table 3. Distribution of non-research articles of *D-Lib Magazine* by subject

S. No.	Subjects	Non-Research Articles in							
		2001-2004		2005-2007		2008-2010		2001-2010	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Digital Library	8	7.77	3	4.76	2	4.26	13	6.10
2	Repository	1	0.97	1	1.59	3	6.38	5	2.35
3	Bibliometric study	2	1.94	1	1.59	0	0.00	3	1.41
4	Archives	2	1.94	0	0.00	2	4.26	4	1.88
5	E-Resource	4	3.88	1	1.59	0	0.00	5	2.35
6	Library Management	15	14.56	14	22.22	7	14.89	36	16.90
7	Internet	4	3.88	1	1.59	0	0.00	5	2.35
8	Information Retrieval	6	5.83	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	2.82
9	Metadata	6	5.83	3	4.76	3	6.38	12	5.63
10	Preservation	3	2.91	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	1.41
11	Database	7	6.80	5	7.94	5	10.64	17	7.98
12	Digital Reference Service	3	2.91	3	4.76	0	0.00	6	2.82
13	Search engine	1	0.97	3	4.76	0	0.00	4	1.88
14	Digitalization	1	0.97	1	1.59	1	2.13	3	1.41
15	Open URL	1	0.97	2	3.17	1	2.13	4	1.88
16	Social Networking	4	3.88	2	3.17	4	8.51	10	4.69
17	Computer Science	0	0.00	1	1.59	0	0.00	1	0.47
18	Interoperability	14	13.59	1	1.59	4	8.51	19	8.92
19	Intellectual Property Right	2	1.94	1	1.59	0	0.00	3	1.41
20	Digital Image	2	1.94	4	6.35	2	4.26	8	3.76
21	Digital Right Management System	10	9.71	8	12.70	2	4.26	20	9.39
22	Digital Inclusion	6	5.83	7	11.11	7	14.89	20	9.39
23	Digital Object Identifier	1	0.97	0	0.00	2	4.26	3	1.41
	Miscellaneous	0	0.00	1	1.59	2	4.26	3	1.41
	Total	103	100	63	100	47	100	213	100

The rest 49 (47.5%) articles were contributed by the eighteen subjects listed in Table 3. In the period 2005-2007, the number of non-research articles decreased to 63 articles. In this period, the scholar paid attention on the topics Library management with 14 (22.2%), Digital Right Management System with 8 (12.7%), Digital Inclusion with 7 (11.1%) and Database with 5 (7.9%) articles. Together these four subjects produced 53.9% of total non-research articles. The rest 29 (46.1 %) articles fall into the eighteen subjects.

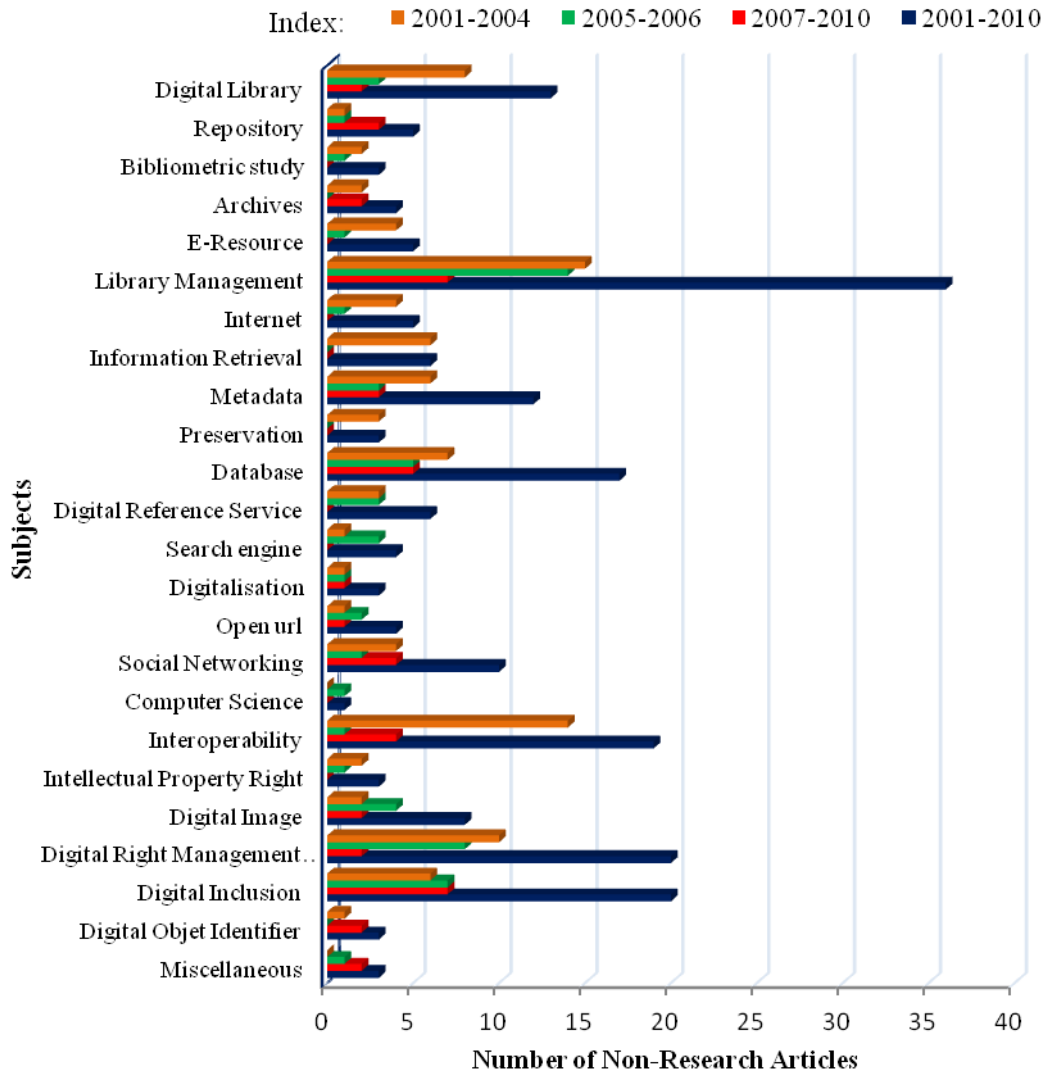


Figure 3. Distribution of non-research articles of *D-Lib Magazine* by subject

During the next period (2008-2010), only 47 non-research articles were published. The large proportion of the articles covered by the subjects Library management with 7 (14.9%) articles, Digital inclusion with 7 (14.9%) articles, and Database with 5 (10.6%) articles. Some subjects such as User study, E-resource, Internet, Information Retrieval, Preservation, Digital reference service, Search engine, Computer science, and Intellectual property right did not attract the attention of scholars for non-research articles.

It could be noticed from Figure 3 that the subject Library Management, Digital Inclusion, Digital Right Management System, Interoperability and Database were the first choice of the scholars for non-research articles throughout the period (the year 2001-2010). However, Digital Library, Metadata, Social Networking and Digital Image were also among the subject that gained non-research article during the studied period (2001-2010).

2. Prolific Authors

The study also identifies the most productive authors of research and non-research articles of *D-Lib Magazine* during the year 2001-2010.

2.1. Prolific authors in Non-research Articles

There are 436 unique authors, of them 188 are primary authors and 272 are secondary authors, some of the authors are identified as the primary and secondary author both. The most frequently appeared primary author in non-research articles is Arms, W.Y. (*William Y. Arms, Cornell University, USA*), Zia, L. L. (*Lee L. Zia, Undergraduate Education National Science Foundation, USA*) and so on (see Table 4).

Table 4. Most Prolific Primary Authors in Non-Research Articles

Rank	Name	No. of Articles
1	Arms W.Y.	4
1	Zia L.L.	4
2	Holley R.	3
2	Littman J.	3
2	Paskin N.	3
2	Witten I.H.	3
4	Arlitsch K.	2
4	Choudhury G.S.	2
4	Crane G.	2
4	Dekkers M.	2
4	Erickson J.S.	2
4	Friedlander A.	2
4	Hammond T.	2
4	Heery R.	2
4	Jantz R.	2

Whereas, the most frequently appeared co-authors is, Lagoze, C. (*Carl Lagoze, Cornell University, USA*) and Van De Sompel, H. (*Herbert Van de Sompel, Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA*) followed by Nelson, M. L. (*Michael L. Nelson, Old Dominion University, USA*), and so on (see Table 5).

Table 5. Most Prolific Secondary Authors in Non-Research Articles

Rank	Name	No. of Articles
1	Lagoze C.	4
1	Van De Sompel H.	4
2	Nelson M.L.	3
3	Bainbridge D.	2
3	Castelli D.	2
3	Collins L.M.	2
3	Dempsey L.	2
3	Dilauro T.	2
3	Droettboom M.	2
3	Flecker D.	2
3	Fujinaga I.	2
3	Geisler G.	2
3	Green A.	2
3	Hannay T.	2
3	Lannom L.W.	2

Over all the most frequently occurred authors in articles is Van De Sompel, H. (Herbert Van de Sompel, Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA) with five articles followed by Arms, W.Y. (William Y. Arms, Cornell University, USA), Lagoze, C. (Carl Lagoze, Cornell University, USA), Zia, L.L. (Lee L. Zia, Division of Undergraduate Education National Science Foundation, Arlington) with four papers each and so on (see Table 6).

Table 6. Most Frequently Appeared Authors in Non-Research Articles

Rank	Name	No. of Articles
1	Van De Sompel H.	5
2	Arms W.Y.	4
2	Lagoze C.	4
2	Zia L.L.	4
3	Dekkers M.	3
3	Flecker D.	3
3	Friedlander A.	3
3	Holley R.	3
3	Littman J.	3
3	Nelson M.L.	3
3	Paskin N.	3
3	Weibel S.L.	3
3	Witten I.H.	3
2	Arlitsch K.	2
2	Bainbridge D.	2

2.2. Prolific Authors in Research Articles

Total 429 unique authors are identified, of them, 166 are primary authors and 229 are secondary authors, some of the authors are identified as the primary and secondary author both. The most frequently appeared primary author in research articles is Van De Sompel, H. (Herbert Van de Sompel, Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA), Bollen J. (Johan Bollen, Dept. of Computer Science, Old Dominion University, USA), King D.W. (Donald W. King, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, USA) and so on (see Table 7).

Table 7. Most Prolific Primary Authors in Research Articles

Rank	Name	No. of Articles
1	Van De Sompel H.	4
2	Bollen J.	3
2	King D.W.	3
2	Nelson M.L.	3
2	Smith J.A.	3
2	Suleman H.	3
3	Bekaert J.	2
3	Canós J.H.	2
3	Coleman A.	2
3	Dilauro T.	2
3	Kirriemuir J.	2
3	Markey K.	2
3	Pinfield S.	2
3	Rudner L.M.	2
3	Tanner S.	2

In case of co-author, Fox E.A. (Edward A. Fox, Dept. of Computer Science, Virginia Tech, USA) King D.W. and Nelson M.L. (Michael L. Nelson, Dept. of Computer Science, Old Dominion University, USA) are prolific author with four articles each followed by Choudhury, G. S. (G. Sayeed Choudhury, Digital Knowledge Center, Johns Hopkins University.), Sumner T. ((Tamara Sumner, Dept. of Computer Science and Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Colorado, USA) and so on (see Table 8).

Regardless of primary and secondary authors, this study finds the most frequently occurred author are King D.W. and Nelson M.L. with seven articles each, followed by Van De Sompel H., Fox E.A., Bollen J. and so on (see Table 9).

Table 8. Most Prolific Secondary Authors in Research Articles

Rank	Name	No. of Articles
1	Fox E.A.	4
1	King D.W.	4
1	Nelson M.L.	4
2	Choudhury G. S.	3
2	Sumner T.	3
2	Young J.	3
3	Atkins A.	2
3	Beit-Arie O.	2
3	Brody T.	2
3	Chachra V.	2
3	Cole T.W.	2
3	Crowder M.	2
3	France R. K.	2
3	Frost R. L.	2
3	Gonçalves M. A.	2

Table 9. Most Frequently Appeared Authors in Research Articles

Rank	Name	No. of Articles
1	King D. W.	7
1	Nelson M. L.	7
2	Van De Sompel H.	6
3	Fox E.A.	5
4	Bollen J.	4
4	Sumner T.	4
4	Tenopir C.	4
5	Bekaert J.	3
5	Choudhury G. S.	3
5	Dilauro T.	3
5	Hickey T. B.	3
5	Kirriemuir J.	3
5	Markey K.	3
5	Montgomery C. H.	3
5	Patton M.	3

Findings and Conclusion

The present study analyse subject coverage of research and non-research articles published under *D-Lib Magazine* in the field of Digital library and find:

In the term of research articles publication in *D-Lib Magazine*, the study reveals a downtrend line

which indicates a negative growth over the period (2001-2010). The proportion of research articles always became smaller to non-research articles during the studied period. While the growth of non-research articles also follow downtrend line, which indicate negative growth during the period 2001-2010. However, the proportion non-research articles larger to research articles.

It has been observed that approximately 56 percent of the research articles concentrated on only five subjects that are Digital Library, Repository, Library Research, Archives, E-Resource. while approximately 59 percent of non-research articles fall under the six subjects that are Library management, Digital right management system, Digital Inclusion, Digital library, Interoperability, Database.

The study identified most prolific primary author of research article is Van De Sompel, H and of non-research articles are Arms, W.Y. and Zia L. L. While the most prolific secondary author of research articles are Fox E.A., King D.W. and Nelson M.L. and of non-research articles is Van De Sompel, H.

It can be concluded that both type of publication has negative growth during the period. *D-lib Magazine* has suspended its publication form July 2017, the negative growth of publication could be a main reason. The subjects Digital library, Repository, Archives, E-resources, Digital Inclusion, Interoperability, Database for research articles while Library management, Digital right management system, Digital inclusion and interoperability are very important subject for non-research articles over the period (2001-2010). Van De Sompel, H was identified as prolific author of the period. The study suggests to the concerned society or publishers to tie up with some notable institutions and organization of the field of Digital library, so that the minimum numbers of publication can be ensured for an issue.

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