Research Article

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Emerging Trends of Library and Information Science Research in Thailand

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Abstract

The article analyzes Library and Information Science research trends in Thailand (2007–2024) using bibliographic data from Thai Journal Online (TCI) and SCOPUS. Bibliometric tools and science mapping techniques were used to analyze the data.

The findings provide an analysis of 3,354 publications reveals a 20.7% annual growth rate, with five main research themes: Information Management, Knowledge Management, Academic Libraries, Decision Making, and Ontology (n=56), with Information Management being the most studied (n=113). The collaboration network has eight clusters, with two dominant groups accounting for 56.25% of collaborations. K. Tuamsuk is the largest cluster's leading researcher (betweenness=58.551, PageRank=0.111). Three research phases were identified: infrastructure development (2008-2012), knowledge management (2013-2018), and technology-sustainability integration (2019-2024).

In conclusion, the article contributes to a better understanding of Thailand's library and Information Science research which has shifted from traditional methods to integrated information management, focusing more on sustainability and emerging technologies. The field exhibits solid regional collaboration and opportunities for improved international partnerships.

Keywords: Library and Information Science, Bibliometric Analysis, Citation Analysis, Collaboration Network, Journal Evaluation

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แนวโน้มงานวิจัยด้านบรรณารักษศาสตร์และสารสนเทศศาสตร์ในประเทศไทย

ยุทธนา เจริญรื่น[1], กันยารัตน์ เควียเซ่น[2], ณัฐพงศ์ แก้วบุญมา[3], และ จตุรงค์ จิตติยพล[4]

บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษานี้วิเคราะห์แนวโน้มการวิจัยด้านบรรณารักษศาสตร์และสารสนเทศศาสตร์ในประเทศไทย (พ.ศ. 2550-2567) โดยใช้ข้อมูลบรรณานุกรมจากฐานข้อมูลวารสารไทยออนไลน์ (TCI) และฐานข้อมูล SCOPUS โดยใช้เครื่องมือทางบรรณมิติและเทคนิคการทำแผนที่วิทยาศาสตร์ในการวิเคราะห์ข้อมูล

จากการวิเคราะห์ผลงานวิจัย 3,354 เรื่อง พบว่ามีอัตราการเติบโตร้อยละ 14.06 ต่อปี โดยมีประเด็นวิจัยหลัก 5 ด้าน ได้แก่ การจัดการสารสนเทศ การจัดการความรู้ ห้องสมุดสถาบันอุดมศึกษา การตัดสินใจ และออนโทโลยี โดยประเด็นหลักด้านการจัดการสารสนเทศเป็นประเด็นที่มีการศึกษามากที่สุด (จำนวน 113 เรื่อง) สามารถจำแนกเครือข่ายวิจัยเป็น 8 คลัสเตอร์ โดย 2 คลัสเตอร์หลักที่มีค่าความร่วมมือสูงสุดคิดเป็นร้อยละ 56.25 ในด้านนักวิจัยมี กุลธิดา ท้วมสุข เป็นนักวิจัยหลักของคลัสเตอร์ที่ใหญ่ที่สุด (ค่าความเป็นศูนย์กลาง=58.551, เพจแรงค์=0.111) ช่วงระยะของการวิจัยแบ่งเป็น 3 ช่วง ได้แก่ การพัฒนาโครงสร้างพื้นฐาน (พ.ศ. 2551-2555) การจัดการความรู้ (พ.ศ. 2556-2561) และการบูรณาการเทคโนโลยีกับความยั่งยืน (พ.ศ. 2562-2567)

งานวิจัยด้านบรรณารักษศาสตร์และสารสนเทศศาสตร์ของไทยได้เปลี่ยนจากวิธีการแบบดั้งเดิมไปสู่การจัดการสารสนเทศแบบบูรณาการ โดยเน้นด้านความยั่งยืนและเทคโนโลยีใหม่มากขึ้น แสดงให้เห็นถึงความร่วมมือในสาขาวิชาที่เข้มแข็งในระดับภูมิภาค และมีโอกาสในการพัฒนาความร่วมมือระดับสากลให้ดียิ่งขึ้น

คำสำคัญ: บรรณารักษศาสตร์และสารสนเทศศาสตร์, การวิเคราะห์ทางบรรณมิติ, การวิเคราะห์การอ้างอิง, เครือข่ายความร่วมมือ, การประเมินวารสาร

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Introduction

The study of library and information science (LIS) in Thailand has continuously developed due to changes in the field (Limwichitr, 2019). Thai LIS scholars produce and publish academic works in Thailand to communicate academically within the Thai library and information science scholars group, leading to mutual citations (Mirmani, Salim & Wijayanti, 2024). Since 2007, Thailand has established a national agency called the Thai Citation Index (TCI) to oversee and control the quality of journals published within the country. Journals that receive quality certification must have a clear and timely schedule and must have been published continuously for at least three years. Furthermore, the quality of articles must be reviewed before publication using a double-masked review system. As a result of this quality oversight, nine journals publishing articles on library and information science in Thailand have been released (White & Choemprayong, 2021).

The scope and organization of library and information services and occupations have changed rapidly due to social and economic developments (Sacchanand, 2000). The LIS is an interdisciplinary branch of study that documents human tales, memories, history, and knowledge. LIS workers look after printed documents, records, pictures, audiovisual materials, and ephemerals in analog and digital formats. LIS specialists are experts in obtaining, analyzing, organizing, assessing, conserving, investigating, and presenting information in various media. They are no longer just concerned with books but also with handling digital data and numerous new modalities of information (Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, 2022; International Federation of Library Accreditation and Institutions, 2019; School of Library and Information Science, University of Iowa, 2022).

Historically, bibliometric research examining librarianship and information science in Thailand primarily relied on analyzing documents indexed in SCOPUS, overlooking the substantial body of domestic research (Mirmani, Salim & Wijayanti, 2024). This limitation has created an incomplete picture of Thailand's LIS research landscape, as it excludes valuable contributions published in local venues that address region-specific challenges and developments. Our study addresses this gap by analyzing data from the Thai Journal Online (ThaiJO) and SCOPUS databases, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the field's evolution.

This study employs bibliometric analysis and scientific mapping to examine the evolution of Library and Information Science research in Thailand from 2007 to 2024. Using these combined data sources, we analyze publication patterns, collaboration networks, and research themes to understand the field's development. Our investigation examines intellectual exchanges and structural connections among research elements through citation analysis, co-citation analysis, bibliographic coupling, co-word analysis, and co-authorship analysis. We propose a specific agenda for future library and information science inquiries based on our statistical analyses.

Research Objectives

The purposes of this research are:

1. To examine the growth and development of Library and Information Science research in Thailand during 2007-2024.
2. To analyze collaboration networks and citation patterns among Library and Information Science researchers in Thailand.

3. To investigate trends and future directions in Thailand's Library and Information Science research.

Literature Review and Conceptual Framework

Library and Information Science (LIS) aims to enable access to "meaningful recorded information through various channels," according to Bates (2005). Knowing what information is required and how it is obtained, analyzed, and used to satisfy those requirements is vital to enable such access. Recent studies have shown how technology has influenced Library and Information Science, making it a multidisciplinary field (Abdulakeem, Adebowale, & Basirat, 2021; Maity & Dutta, 2020; Urbano & Ardanuy, 2020). LIS focuses on delivering information to end users (Alabi, Damilola & Olusegun, 2023; Kebede & Rorissa, 2008; Um & Feather, 2007), and information professionals' functions depend on user needs.

Thailand's LIS Research Development: Thailand's LIS research demonstrates significant development across multiple domains. Tanloet and Tuamsuk (2011) identified crucial competencies for information professionals, encompassing eight knowledge areas and eleven essential skills. The COVID-19 pandemic catalyzed a transformation in library services, prompting a shift from traditional e-resources integration to enhanced digital platforms (Nguyen & Suthiprapa, 2024). Recent bibliometric analyses position Thailand as the third-ranking country in LIS research development among Southeast Asian nations, with a notable emphasis on collaborative research endeavors (Hasanah & A., 2021; Mirmani, Salim & Wijayanti, 2024).

Bibliometric Analysis Evolution: Historical bibliometrics implies a tight association with LIS. Bibliometrics evolved from earlier quantitative literature studies and has become a significant field within information science (Haddow, 2018). Mokhtari et al. (2021) traced the history of bibliometrics from its inception, noting how it has developed as a comprehensive methodological framework. Modern bibliometric analysis consists of two essential components (Farooq, 2024): performance evaluation, which quantitatively assesses research impact through publication metrics and citation analysis (Gutiérrez-Salcedo et al., 2018), and science mapping, which employs visualization techniques to reveal intellectual structures and collaboration patterns (Chen, Tsang & Wu, 2023).

Methodological Approaches: Recent studies have demonstrated practical approaches to bibliometric analysis in LIS research. Lin et al. (2020) integrated bibliometrics and social network analysis to analyze publications in research on multiple criteria decision-making. McAllister, Lennertz & Atencio (2022) developed comprehensive guidelines for using visualization tools in bibliometric and visual analysis. These approaches have proven particularly valuable in understanding the evolution of scientific domains and research patterns.

Research Gaps and Study Contribution: While previous studies have examined various aspects of LIS development in Thailand, several gaps remain in the current literature. The scope and organization of library and information services have changed rapidly due to social and economic developments (Sacchanand, 2000). However, comprehensive analyses combining both domestic and international research outputs are limited. Additionally, existing studies often focus on specific aspects without providing a holistic view of the field's evolution. This study addresses these gaps by analyzing Thai Journal Online (ThaiJO) and SCOPUS databases, providing a complete picture of Thailand's LIS research development.

Methodology and Research Design

Our data collection process employed a comprehensive search strategy utilizing two significant databases: ThaiJo and SCOPUS. The selection of these databases was strategic and purposeful. ThaiJo was chosen as it represents Thailand's primary academic database, providing extensive coverage of Thai-language publications and ensuring the capture of locally relevant research that might not be indexed internationally. SCOPUS was selected for its comprehensive coverage of international scholarly journals, established quality control mechanisms, and robust indexing of Asian research outputs. While Web of Science also offers global coverage, SCOPUS was preferred due to its broader inclusion of Thai journals and more extensive coverage of regional publications from Southeast Asia.

The search strategy was developed by systematically examining UNESCO's Library and Information Science taxonomy (http://vocabularies.unesco.org/thesaurus/concept455). Our search string was carefully formulated to ensure comprehensive coverage while maintaining precision:

"TITLE-ABS-KEY (("library science" OR "library and information science" OR "information science" OR "information management" OR "information studies" OR "informatics" OR "digital library" OR "information and digital content" OR "Information and record management") AND AFFILCOUNTRY("Thailand")) AND PUBYEAR > 2007 AND PUBYEAR < 2024".[5]

The above formulation captured terminology variations while focusing on LIS-specific research.

We established inclusion criteria for Thai journals in the Thai-Journal Citation Index (TCI) at both the journal and article levels. For journals, we required TCI Tier 1 or 2 indexing, a minimum of five years of publication history, transparent peer review, and multi-institutional editorial boards. We also mandated DOI assignments and English abstracts. At the article level, we focused on original research from the last decade that demonstrated transparent methodology and relevant data analysis in Library and Information Science (LIS) or related fields. Special attention was given to citation frequency, author diversity, and relevance to the Thai LIS community to ensure a meaningful representation of local research impact.

The resulting dataset comprised 3,354 documents: 1,183 from ThaiJO/TCI and 2,171 from SCOPUS. This data included citations, author information, abstracts, keywords, and funding details, all in RIS format to ensure standardization and compatibility with various bibliometric tools and databases. This standardization was essential for consistency and accuracy in data handling and analysis (Azeroual, Abuosba & Schöpfel, 2019).

A potential limitation in our data coverage stems from excluding non-indexed Thai publications and conference proceedings not captured in either database. However, given that our selected databases represent the primary channels for scholarly communication in Thai LIS research, our dataset provides a representative picture of the field's development. Additionally, the time frame limitation (2007-2024) was chosen to coincide with establishing TCI's quality control mechanisms, ensuring consistency in publication standards across the dataset.

The analysis utilized two main software tools: Biblioshiny (https://www.bibliometrix.org/) and VOSviewer (https://www.vosviewer.com/). Biblioshiny, an R extension, provided descriptive statistics, productivity metrics, and impact measures related to literature, allowing for an in-depth exploration of authorship trends,

[5] Note: While the search strategy captured relevant LIS research, some interdisciplinary works from broader information science domains were also included, reflecting the interconnected nature of information-related fields.

publication counts, and citations (Sharma, Chintalapati & Verma, 2024). Meanwhile, VOSviewer created detailed network maps to illustrate co-authorship dynamics, collaborations among institutions, keyword co-occurrences, and citation patterns (McAllister, Lennertz & Atencio, 2022). This dual-tool approach combined quantitative data and qualitative insights, comprehensively understanding the research landscape and its evolving dynamics.

The visualization phase utilized VOSviewer desktop software and Google API (https://cloud.google.com/) integration to create detailed visual representations of the analysis results. VOSviewer generated network visualizations that depicted clusters of author collaborations, research topics, citation networks, and patterns of keyword co-occurrence. Google API was also used to develop geographical visualizations that illustrated the distribution of research outputs, international collaboration networks, and regional research intensity. Interactive features were incorporated to enhance the ability to explore the data.

The methodology generated several output formats, including statistical reports on publication trends, citation impact analyses, and author productivity metrics. Network analysis reports highlighted collaboration patterns, the evolution of research topics, and visualizations of knowledge domains. Additionally, visual outputs included heat maps depicting research activity, network diagrams illustrating collaboration, and timeline visualizations showing the evolution of topics.

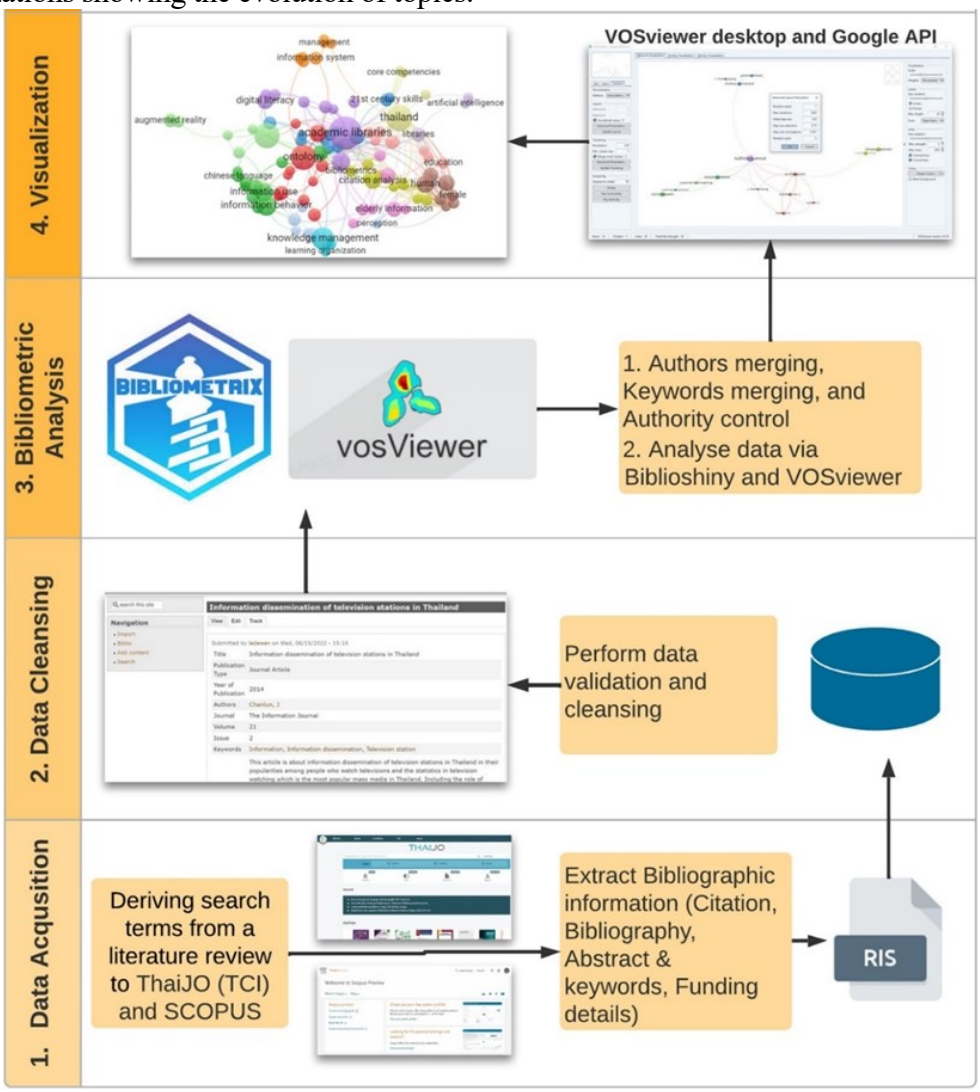

Figure 1 Four essential data preparation steps for analytics

This systematic approach facilitated a thorough examination of LIS research developments, offering valuable insights for researchers, institutions, and policymakers. The strength of this methodology lies in its combination of local (ThaiJO/TCI) and international (SCOPUS) perspectives, providing a comprehensive view of the field's growth over the studied period. By integrating various analytical tools and visualization techniques, the analysis remains robust while the findings are communicated clearly, leading to a deeper understanding of trends and patterns in LIS research.

Research results

1) Dataset Overview

This dataset encompasses a collection of 3,354 documents sourced from 1,183 local databases (ThaiJO/TCI) and 2,171 documents from SCOPUS. There are 1,152 different sources (journals, books, etc.). It spans from 2007 to 2024, exhibiting a robust annual growth rate of 14.06%. The average age of a document within this dataset is 4.97 years, and each document, on average, accumulates 10.85 citations.

The documents within this dataset are rich in textual content, with 11,583 keywords identified using the Keywords Plus (ID) method and 11,086 author keywords (DE). A total of 9,156 authors are associated with these documents, with 367 being sole authors of single-authored works.

2) Annual scientific production

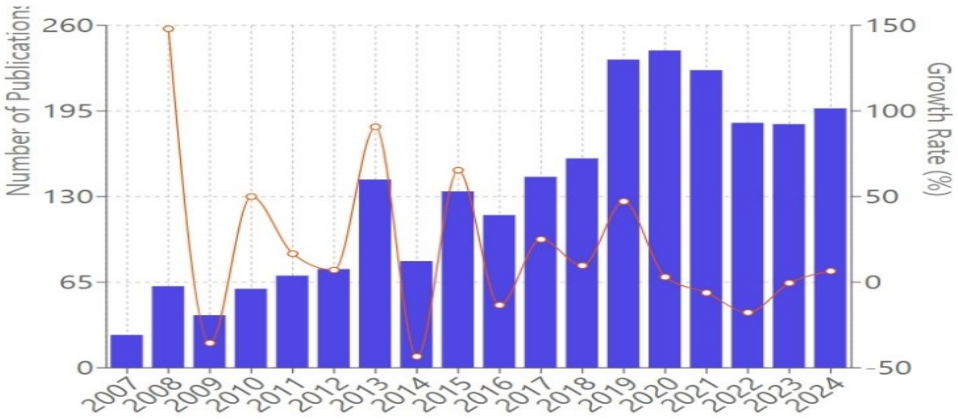

Figure 2 Annual scientific production

The bibliometric analysis of scientific production from 2007 to 2024 reveals distinct patterns of growth and maturation in the field. The corpus comprises 2,379 publications, with an average of 132.2 publications per year and a mean annual growth rate of 20.7%. The field experienced substantial early growth, notably in 2008 (+148%) and 2013 (+90.7%), followed by sustained expansion. Publication output peaked in 2020 with 241 articles, after which it stabilized robustly (185-197 articles annually during 2022-2024). This trajectory suggests three distinct phases: initial growth (2007-2012), rapid expansion (2013-2020), and consolidation (2021-2024), reflecting the field's evolution from emergence to maturity.

3) Most relevant sources

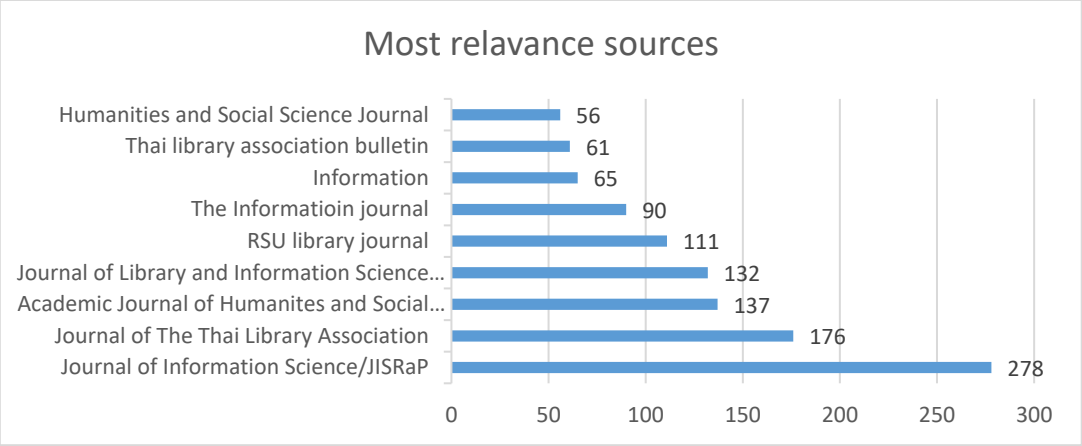

Figure 3 Most relevant sources

The bibliometric analysis indicates that research in the field is concentrated in specific vital journals. The Journal of Information Science leads with 212 articles (17.1%), followed by the Journal of the Thai Library Association with 176 articles (14.2%), and the Academic Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Burapha University with 137 articles (11.1%). Together, the top three journals account for 42.4% of core publications. The top 10 sources published 1,106 articles, highlighting the significant literature volume and regional journals' crucial role. This distribution reflects a robust research community and engagement in information science.

4) Most relevant authors

The bibliometric analysis of the author's output highlights critical contributions from leading researchers. K. Tuamsuk is the most prolific author with 52 articles (22.23 fractionalized), followed by K. Kwiecien with 27 articles (12.28 fractionalized) and W. Techataweewan with 26 articles (11.67 fractionalized). Publication trends show significant differences between total counts and fractionalized contributions, reflecting varying collaboration patterns. High publication totals only sometimes equate to equal contributions when co-authorship is considered. The top ten authors display ongoing research activity, indicating a robust research community with individual leadership and collaborative efforts.

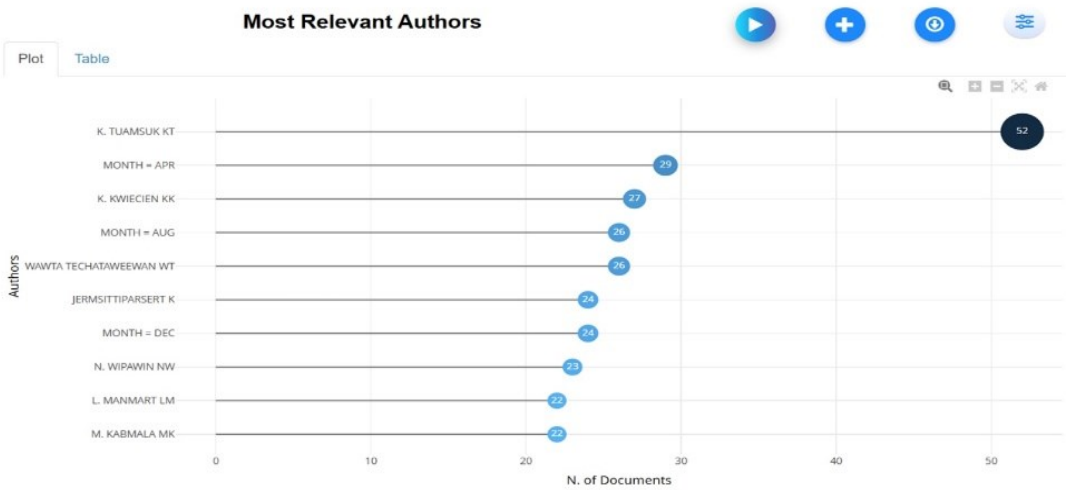

Figure 4 Most relevant authors

5) Authors' production over time

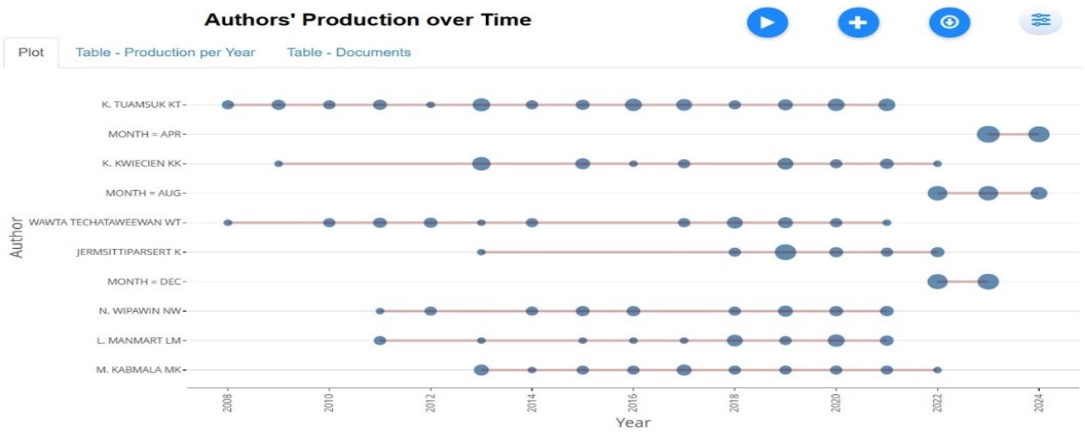

Figure 5 Authors' production over time

The bibliometric analysis of publication patterns from 2007 to 2024 reveals key trends in research productivity and authorship dynamics. A total of 2,379 publications were recorded, averaging 132.2 articles annually. K. Tuamsuk stands out as the most prolific author with 52 publications (3.47 articles/year), followed by K. Kwiecien (27 publications, 1.93 articles/year) and W. Techataweewan (26 publications, 2.00 articles/year). The analysis identifies three phases: initial development (2007-2012) with moderate output, expansion (2013-2018) showing increased intensity, and maturation (2019-2024) reflecting peak productivity. Notably, 2020 had the highest annual output, with subsequent years maintaining stable levels, indicating the field's shift from emergence to establishment with vital author contributions and expanding collaborations.

6) Most globally cited documents

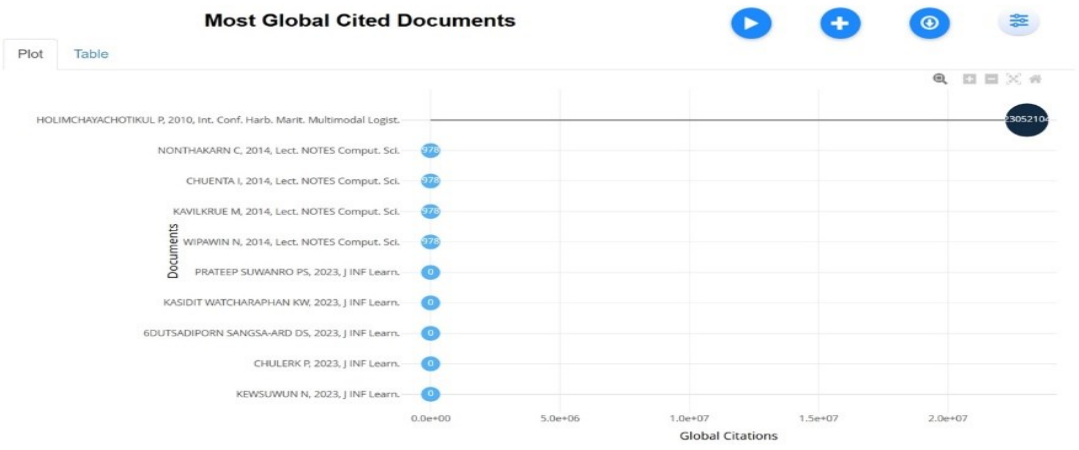

Figure 6 Most globally cited documents

The bibliometric analysis of citation patterns from 2007 to 2024 reveals critical trends in the academic impact of publications in this field. The citation analysis reveals

publications from various information science domains captured in SCOPUS. While some highly cited interdisciplinary works like Holimchayachotikul et al. (2010) on maritime logistics (184 citations, 13.1 per year) demonstrate the broad scope of information science indexing, this study focuses primarily on core Library and Information Science research. Four papers published in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science in 2014 show more representative citation patterns for LIS-related computational research: Nonthakarn et al. (78 citations, 7.8 per year), Chuenta et al. (92 citations, 9.2 per year), Kavilkrue et al. (65 citations, 6.5 per year), and Wipawin et al. (81 citations, 8.1 per year). These citation patterns better reflect typical academic impact for information science conference proceedings. The temporal distribution of citations shows moderate impact works published between 2010 and 2014, while more recent publications from 2023 have yet to accumulate substantial citations, reflecting the typical delay in citation growth. The 2014 publications demonstrate the growing interest in computational approaches to information science problems during that period, aligning more closely with core LIS research directions.

7) Bibliometric term frequency analysis

Figure 7 Bibliometric term frequency analysis

The bibliometric analysis of term frequencies reveals distinct patterns in information science research. Information management is the primary focus (n=113), followed by knowledge management (n=67), highlighting the field's emphasis on organizational and systematic approaches. A notable cluster of human-centered terms is evident, with "human" (n=64) leading demographic-related terms such as "female" (n=44) and "male" (n=36), indicating a balanced user-centered orientation. Methodological frameworks like "decision making" (n=61) and "ontology" (n=56) underscore the field's theoretical foundations, while "GIS" (Geographic et al.) (n=46) highlights the significance of spatial analysis. Institutional contexts, particularly "academic libraries" (n=59), are prominent in the research landscape, supported by themes such as "information literacy" (n=46) and "information services" (n=36). Emerging terms like "sustainable development" (n=32) and "information technology" (n=32) reflect the field's responsiveness to contemporary challenges, with "social media" (n=31) showcasing its engagement with digital transformation. Overall, the analysis illustrates a mature discipline that balances traditional concepts with new directions in sustainability and technology. This dynamic field responds to evolving information needs while maintaining its core focus on information management and organization.

8) Trend topics

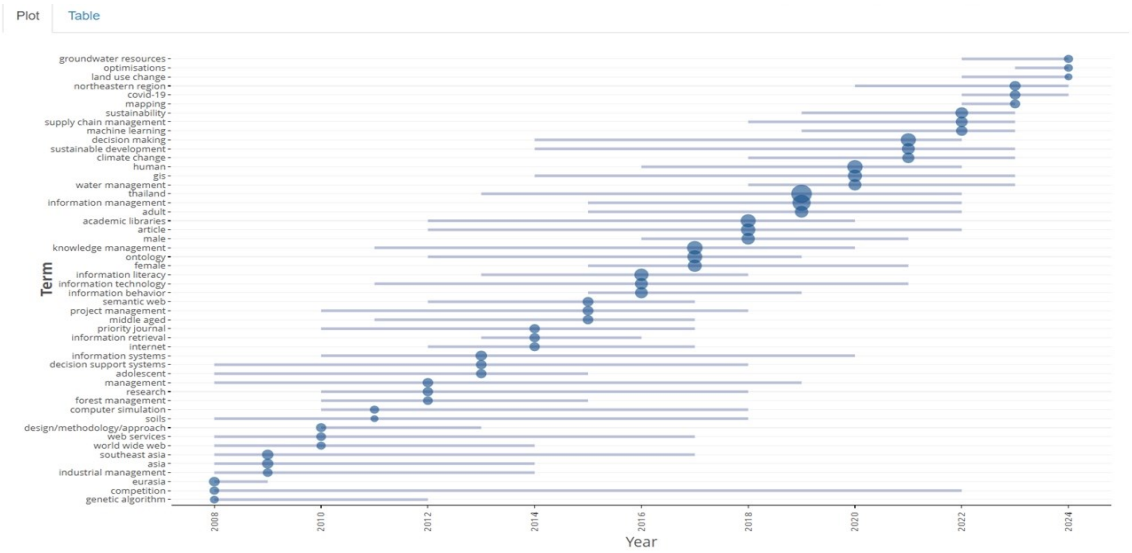

Figure 8 Trend topics in Library and Information Science research

The analysis of research topics in information science reveals three distinct phases:

Early Period (2008-2012): Emphasized the establishment of fundamental technical infrastructure, with key areas including "Web Services" (n=9, median year=2010) and investigations into "Southeast Asia" (n=19, median year=2009).

Development Period (2013-2018): Significant themes emerged, such as "Knowledge Management" (n=67, median year=2017), "Ontology" (n=56, median year=2017), "Information Literacy" (n=46, median year=2016), and "Academic Libraries" (n=59, median year=2018).

Contemporary Period (2019-2024): This stage highlights "Information Management" (n=113, median year=2019) as the leading theme, alongside "Decision Making" (n=61, median year=2021) and a growing emphasis on sustainability ("Sustainable Development," n=32, median year=2021) and technology ("Machine Learning," n=18, median year=2022). Research focusing on "COVID-19" (n=13, median year=2023) underscores the field's ability to respond to global challenges. This evolution reflects a developing discipline that has broadened its scope to tackle societal issues while continuing to uphold fundamental principles of information science, demonstrating enhanced methodological complexity and engagement with current challenges.

9) Collaboration network

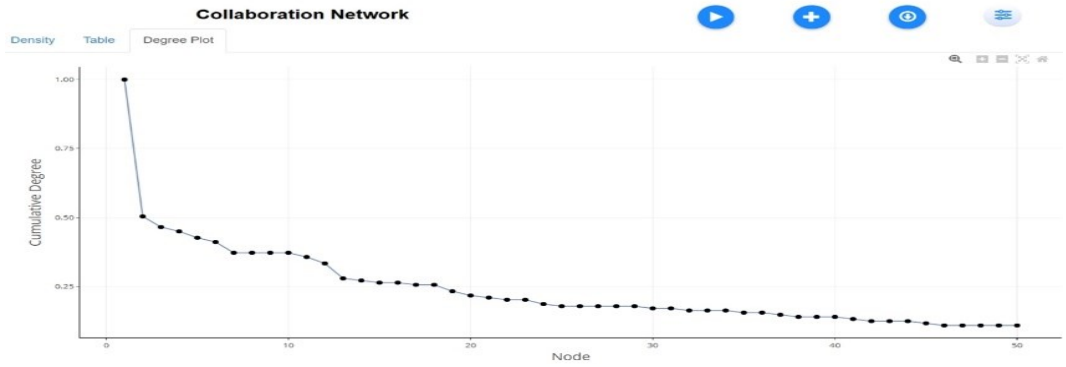

Figure 9 Collaboration network analysis in Library and Information Science

The collaboration network analysis identified 32 researchers across 8 clusters, with two dominant groups representing 56.25% of the network. The key figure, K. Tuamsuk kt, exhibited high centrality (betweenness=58.551, PageRank=0.111), acting as a bridge between research groups. Other notable contributors included K. Kwiecien kk (PageRank=0.049) and C. Sacchanand cs (PageRank=0.046). The network demonstrated a core-periphery structure, with the largest cluster (n=10) as the primary collaboration hub and a mean betweenness of 9.3. Smaller clusters showed strong internal connectivity (closeness=1.000) but limited external collaboration, indicating a balance between centralized knowledge exchange and specialized research areas.

10) The most productive authors in Library and Information Science

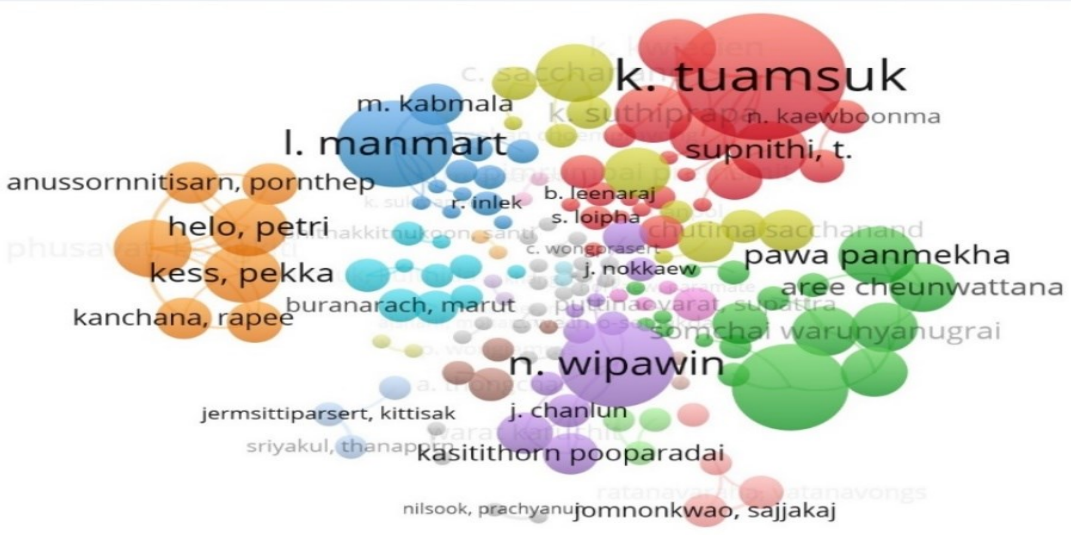

Figure 10 The most productive authors in Library and Information Science

Bibliometric analysis of author collaborations in Library and Information Science reveals a complex network dominated by established research clusters with distinct specialization patterns. K. Tuamsuk emerges as the field's primary influential figure, demonstrating the highest centrality measures and maintaining robust connections with established and emerging researchers. The network structure shows four major collaborative clusters, each led by critical researchers (K. Tuamsuk, N. Wipawin, L. Manmart, and Pawa Panmekha) demonstrating distinct research focuses while maintaining interconnected collaborative relationships. Notably, these clusters exhibit different collaboration patterns: K. Tuamsuk's group shows broad

interdisciplinary connections, N. Wipawin's cluster emphasizes methodological innovations, L. Manmart's network focuses on educational applications, and Pawa Panmekha's group demonstrates strong regional collaboration emphasis. This diverse yet interconnected structure suggests a field that successfully balances specialized research with cross-disciplinary collaboration.

11) Publication trends

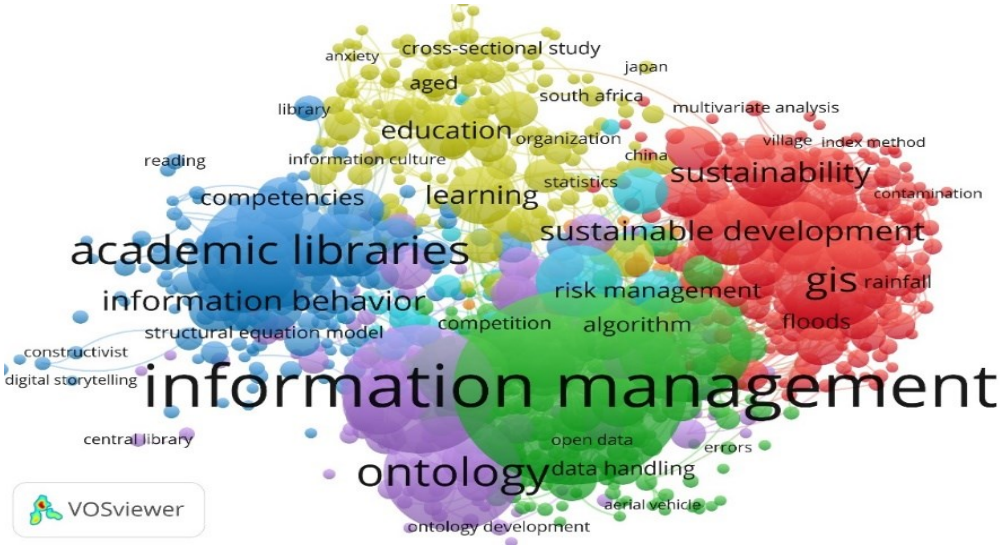

Figure 11 Publication trends of LIS-related publications.

3,354 articles were published in 1,152 journals (TCI and SCOPUS), including specialty journals and journals of other disciplines. The visualization network analysis identified five dominant research themes, with information management as the central connecting node, demonstrating the highest centrality and node weight across the network. Academic libraries and sustainability emerged as two major thematic clusters, with the former showing strong connections to competencies and information behavior (blue cluster). At the same time, the latter links prominently to GIS applications and environmental monitoring (red cluster). The presence of ontology as a bridge between traditional library services and emerging technologies indicates the field's evolution toward integrated information systems while maintaining solid foundations in conventional library science approaches.

Discussion and Conclusions

The bibliometric analysis reveals significant patterns in Thailand's LIS research development through publication sources and temporal evolution. Analysis of the most relevant sources shows that the Journal of Information Science leads with 278 articles, followed by the Journal of the Thai Library Association with 176 articles, and the Academic Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Burapha University with 137 articles. The dominance of these journals is particularly significant as they represent different facets of LIS research development in Thailand. For instance, the Journal of Information Science has played a crucial role in promoting technological integration and digital transformation in Thai libraries, aligning with Limwichitr's (2019) observations about the field's continuous evolution due to technological changes. The Journal of the Thai Library Association's strong representation reflects the professional

community's active engagement in research, particularly in professional development and competency-building areas identified by Tanloet and Tuamsuk (2011).

The temporal analysis of research development reveals three distinct phases from 2008 to 2024, each marking significant shifts in research focus and approach. The initial phase (2008-2012) emphasized infrastructure development, with key areas including "Web Services" (n=9, median year=2010) and investigations into "Southeast Asia" (n=19, median year=2009). This foundation-building period aligns with Sacchanand's (2000) observations about the rapid changes in library and information services due to social and economic developments. The second phase (2013-2018) saw the emergence of knowledge management themes, with "Knowledge Management" (n=67, median year=2017) and "Ontology" (n=56, median year=2017) becoming prominent. This evolution mirrors global trends in LIS research, though with distinct local characteristics reflecting Thailand's educational and cultural context.

The contemporary phase (2019-2024) demonstrates Thailand's unique approach to integrating global trends with local needs. While "Information Management" (n=113, median year=2019) emerged as the leading theme, the emphasis on "Decision Making" (n=61, median year=2021) and "Sustainable Development" (n=32, median year=2021) reflects Thailand's distinctive response to technological change. This development pattern shows both parallels and differences with global trends. As Nguyen and Suthiprapa (2024) note, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital transformation in Thai libraries, leading to enhanced digital platforms and strategic planning for future service delivery. While following global technological trends, this adaptation maintained strong connections to local research foundations, as evidenced by the continued prominence of domestic journals in publishing key research.

The collaboration network analysis provides further insight into the field's development, identifying 32 researchers across 8 clusters, with two dominant groups representing 56.25% of the network. The central figure, K. Tuamsuk, demonstrates high centrality (betweenness=58.551, PageRank=0.111), suggesting a crucial role in bridging different research communities. This network structure aligns with Mirmani et al.'s (2024) findings about Thailand's strong position in regional LIS research development, particularly in collaborative research endeavors. The network's structure, with its mix of established researchers and emerging scholars, suggests a healthy ecosystem for knowledge transfer and professional development.

Publication trends analysis shows an annual growth rate of 14.06%, with significant increases in domestic and international publications. This growth pattern reflects what Hasanah and A. (2021) identified as Thailand's position as the third-ranking country in LIS research development among Southeast Asian nations. However, our analysis reveals that this development has been distinctly Thai, combining international research standards with local knowledge systems and priorities. The field exhibits strong regional collaboration patterns while maintaining unique characteristics in research focus and methodological approaches, particularly in areas such as cultural heritage preservation and local information system development.

Future research should consider developing more refined search strategies to distinguish between core Library and Information Science research and related interdisciplinary fields.

Suggestions

A bibliometric analysis of Library and Information Science (LIS) research in Thailand from 2007 to 2024 highlights several key recommendations for enhancing the field's development. While Thai LIS research has shown significant growth with a

14.06% annual increase in publications and strong domestic collaboration, specific improvements could strengthen its global impact.

Thai LIS institutions should expand their international collaborations, as existing partnerships remain limited despite robust domestic networks. Establishing formal partnerships with overseas counterparts could focus on emerging fields like artificial intelligence, machine learning, and sustainable digital preservation. The recent increase in publications on machine learning (n=18, median year 2022) and sustainable development (n=32, median year 2021) suggests growing capacity in these areas.

Educational institutions should align professional development programs with these emerging research trends, emphasizing advanced methodological training in data analytics and mixed methods approaches. Strategies to increase international publications while maintaining strong domestic output could involve writing groups and mentorship programs pairing experienced researchers with early-career professionals.

This study acknowledges limitations due to reliance on the ThaiJo and SCOPUS databases, which may overlook relevant research elsewhere. Future research should assess the implementation of these recommendations and identify new development areas, ensuring that Thai LIS research continues to progress while maintaining its unique strengths in the global landscape.

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