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## THE USAGE OF FOREIGN LIS JOURNALS BY UKRAINIAN LIS SPECIALISTS AND SCIENTISTS

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**Abstract.** Library and Information Science (LIS) journals are leading and fast channel of professional communication as they allow scientists and professionals to exchange the latest information on new discoveries and research works. The current situation in Ukraine is characterized by a limited access to foreign printed LIS journals. The present study analyzes the usage and citation of foreign LIS journals by Ukrainian LIS specialists and scientists from 2010 to 2015. The aim of the paper is to describe the results of the citation analysis of foreign LIS journals by Ukrainian LIS specialists and scientists. Results reflect that LIS journals published in the USA, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and India were cited during the 5 years by Ukrainian LIS researches.

**Keywords:** LIS journal; database; professional communication; library specialists and scientists.

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Increasing life quality of people in different countries is the essential task of modern world. Under the fast development of modern information and communication technologies, information is considered to be one of the significant factors that influences life quality. Information availability, accessibility, efficiency and reliability is the key to economic, social and cultural development of society. In this, library acquires a great importance as a social and communication structure that becomes an active member in science, education, culture and business. Nowadays Ukrainian libraries organize public access to various information resources, contribute into development of information culture of society and create conditions for full development of human personality. In its turn professional communication influences on development and improvement of LIS education and practice, quality improvement of library and information services, integration into information environment etc.

Professional communication of LIS specialists and scientists based on usage and citation of professional periodicals is the key to

providing library's social mission. Journals still occupy a significant part in professional communication system despite of appearance of new services, methods, forms and channels of communication. The following fundamental characteristics, such as: the sequence of ideas revealing, high quality of printed material and preservation of historical memory allow journals to be the leading and important channel of professional communication. Ukrainian LIS researchers and educators rate LIS periodicals to be the first source of enhancing professional communication while LIS practitioners rate LIS periodicals to be the third source coming after internet services usage and conferences participation.

Foreign LIS journals are of fundamental importance in professional communication of LIS specialists and scientists as their content allows to become aware of and follow LIS tendencies of the leading countries of the world, contributes into libraries' performance evaluation, increases professional knowledge level and allows to share experience.

Citation analysis is an important component of bibliometrics. Citation of articles



published in foreign LIS journals is one of the aspects of Ukrainian LIS specialists and scientists' professional communications. That is why the aim of the research is to study Ukrainian LIS professionals' citations of foreign LIS journals in five most popular Ukrainian LIS journals and provide the results of the conducted analysis.

Professional communication as a research subject recently attracts attention of Ukrainian scientists as well as scientists from over the world. For instance, Ukrainian researcher Soshynska emphasizes the importance of LIS journals as the channel of professional communication in Book Publishing [2]. I. Wormell gives reasons for bibliometric laws' implementation in order to control journals' selections and to evaluate these laws' influence on library performance [4]. Other researcher, Sei-Ching Joanna Sin has analyzed journal publications in the field of library and information science in terms of authors' geographical position, co-authorship and collaboration as well as impact factor of LIS journals [3]. While the citation analysis of foreign LIS journals by Ukrainian LIS specialists has not been conducted yet.

Publications in top five Ukrainian LIS journals were analyzed to study citation of foreign LIS journals by Ukrainian LIS scientists in the period from 2010 to 2015. The analyzed journals are: *Visnyk knyzhkovoï palaty*, *Visnyk KhDAK*, *Bibliotekoznavstvo. Dokumentoznavstvo. Informolohiia*, *Bibliotechnyi visnyk* and *Bibliotechna Planeta*. These journals are the most popular and the most cited LIS journals by Ukrainian LIS specialists according to Maslovska research results [1]. 64 % of all citations of foreign LIS journals in five Ukrainian LIS journals were citations in *Bibliotechnyi visnyk*, 40 % –

in *Visnyk KhDAK*, 39 % – in *Visnyk knyzhkovoï palaty*, 38 % – in *Bibliotekoznavstvo. Dokumentoznavstvo. Informolohiia* and 14 % – in *Bibliotechna Planeta*. The above stated journals cover publications of research results in LIS field, methodological and historical reviews and all aspects of Archival Science, Document Science, Book Science and Book Publishing. The current state of Library and Information Science is revealed there. The journals' editorial board members are the leading experts from Lithuania, Poland (*Bibliotechnyi visnyk*), Germany, Denmark (*Visnyk KhDAK*), Belarus, Russia, the USA (*Visnyk knyzhkovoï palaty*), Belarus, Russia (*Bibliotekoznavstvo. Dokumentoznavstvo. Informolohiia*).

The indexation in Scopus and Web of Science scientometric databases analysis of foreign LIS journals that were cited by Ukrainian LIS specialist and scientists was conducted. The necessity of the analysis lies in the fact that research libraries and universities management is paying special attention to these two resources in evaluating quality of science and education.

The analysis reveals that Ukrainian LIS professionals and scientists in the period from 2010 to 2015 cited 63 LIS journals published in the USA, 33 LIS journals published in Great Britain, 13 LIS journals published in the Netherlands, 8 LIS journals published in Germany, 4 LIS journals published in India, 3 LIS journals published in Spain, 3 LIS journals published in Poland, 2 LIS journals published in Canada, 2 LIS journals published in Taiwan, 2 LIS journals published in Australia, 1 LIS journal published in Georgia, 1 LIS journal published in Iran and 1 LIS journal published in Turkey (Fig. 1).

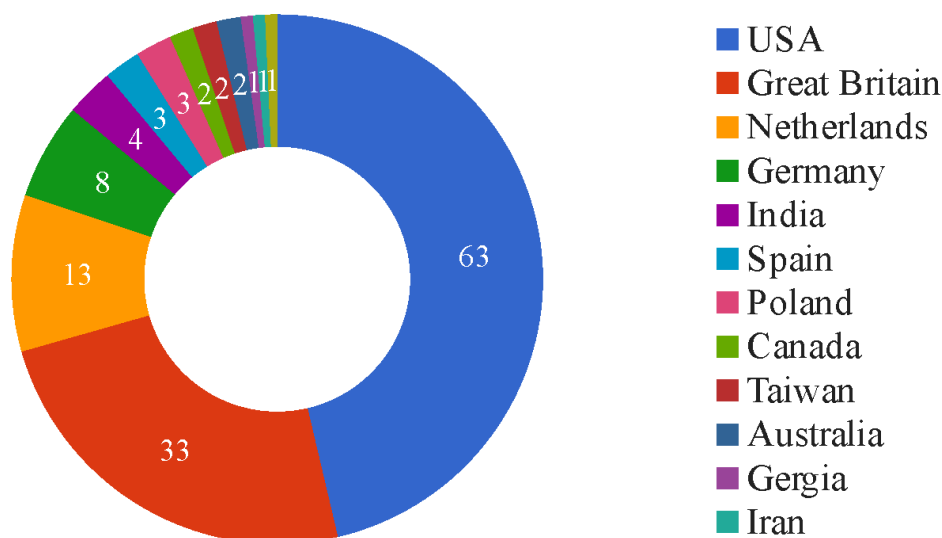


Figure 1. Quantity of foreign LIS journals cited by Ukrainian LIS specialists

Studying the chart's data seems that Ukrainian LIS professionals use a considerable range of foreign LIS journals, but citation of foreign LIS journals comparing to citation of Ukrainian and Russian LIS journals is rather low. The figures start from 0.1 % of citations of foreign LIS journals in *Bibliotechna Planeta* to 9.2 % in *Bibliotechnyi visnyk*. It indicates low level of professional communication in LIS journals among Ukrainian LIS professionals and scientists from other countries.

The main reasons of low citation level are the following:

- Lack of funding for acquisition of printed materials;
- Difficulties in acquiring certificates for accessing journals' full text;
- Establishment managers' lack of understanding of importance to know modern areas of focus of Library and Information Science, education and science in other countries of the world;
- Absence of open access online LIS journals list;
- Language barriers.

Ukrainian LIS specialists mostly cite foreign LIS journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science databases. 66 LIS journals printed in Great Britain, 15 LIS journals printed in the Netherlands, 9 LIS journals printed in Germany and 4 LIS journals printed in France are located in Scopus database. 28 LIS journals printed in Great Britain, 5 LIS journals printed in the Netherlands and 4 LIS journals printed in Germany are located in Web of Science database.

LIS journals printed in the USA and Great Britain are often referred to by Ukrainian LIS professionals.

The biggest citation number of LIS journals printed in Great Britain was found in *Bibliotechnyi visnyk*. 23 articles in 17 LIS journals were cited during the period from 2010 to 2015. *IFLA Journal* and *Library Journal* are the most popular LIS journals printed in Great Britain. Also 5 LIS journals printed in Germany were referred to by the authors of *Bibliotechnyi visnyk* during the above stated period of time. *Zeitschrift für*



*Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie* is the most cited LIS journal printed in Germany.

According to analysis results of *Visnyk knyzhkovoi palaty* and *Visnyk KhDAK* LIS journals printed in Great Britain, such as: *Electronic Library*, *Journal of Documentation*, *Library Journal* and *New Library World* are also popular among Ukrainian authors. 15 LIS journals printed in Great Britain, 21 LIS journals printed in the USA, 8 LIS journals printed in the Netherlands, 3 LIS journals

printed in Germany were cited in *Visnyk knyzhkovoi palaty*. 8 LIS journals printed in Great Britain, 17 LIS journals printed in the USA, 5 LIS journals printed in the Netherlands and 2 LIS journals printed in Germany were referred to in *Visnyk KhDAK*.

The list of LIS journals printed in Great Britain and Germany and cited by Ukrainian LIS specialists and scientists can be found in table 1.

Table 1

### Foreign LIS journals cited by Ukrainian LIS specialists and scientists

№	Journal Title	Country	Scopus	Web of Science	Citations by Ukrainian LIS specialists
1	Electronic Library	UK	x	X	x
2	European Journal of Information Systems	UK	x	X	x
3	IFLA Journal	UK	x		x
4	Information Research - an International Electronic Journal	UK	x	X	x
5	Journal of Documentation	UK	x	X	x
6	Journal of Information Science	UK	x	X	x
7	Journal of Knowledge Management	UK	x	X	x
8	Learned Publishing	UK	x	X	x
9	Library Hi Tech	UK	x	X	x
10	Library Management	UK	x		x
11	New Library World	UK	x		x
12	Online Information Review	UK	x	X	x
13	Reference Services Review	UK	x		x
14	Serials Review	UK	x	X	x
15	Education for Information	NL	x		x
16	Information Services and Use	NL	x		x
17	Journal of Informetrics	NL	x	X	x
18	Scientometrics	NL	x	X	x
19	International Journal on Digital Libraries	DE	x		x
20	Libri	DE	x	X	x
21	Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie	DE	x	X	x

LIS journals printed in the Netherlands with the main focus on scientometrics and infometrics are in great demand in Ukraine.

These journals are *Journal of Infometrics* and *Scientometrics*. In Ukraine nationwide scientific output is measured by scientist's articles



published in journals indexed in the largest databases like Scopus and Web of Science. That is why bibliometric and scientometric information becomes important. It is important for higher educational establishments as it provides information on status and effectiveness of research works, for libraries as it provides information on different areas such as international cooperation, implementation of analytical and prognostic user requests, creation of information and analytical system of bibliometric profiles of journals' editorial boards, universities, research institutions and laboratories and so on.

Ukrainian LIS specialists and students actively refer to international journal *Libri*. This journal was cited in four analysed Ukrainian LIS journals with the exception of *Bibliotekoznavstvo*, *Dokumentoznavstvo*, *Informolohiia* journal.

The lack of available printed foreign LIS journals in Ukrainian libraries makes LIS specialists and scientists use open access electronic journals. Currently 123 LIS journals from 37 countries provide open access. 7 LIS journals out of 62 LIS that are printed in Great Britain and indexed in Scopus database in 2015 provide open access to their content. They are: *The Library*, *Journal of Cheminformatics*, *Library and Information Science Research*, *Aslib Journal of Information Management*, *Education and Infor-*

*mation Technologies*, *Information Research*, *Journal of Information Literacy*. *LIBER Quarterly* is the only LIS journal out of 13 LIS journals that are printed in the Netherlands and indexed in Scopus database in 2015 that provides open access. Also 1 French open access LIS journal is indexed in Scopus database. It is *Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France*.

The research results show that Ukrainian LIS specialists referred to only two open access journals indexed in Scopus database out of the stated list of journals. These journals are: *The Library* and *Information Research* (table 2). It confirms low awareness level of Ukrainian LIS specialists on foreign open access LIS journals and it makes necessary to make the list of foreign LIS journals ordered geographically and thematically and to work on collaborative projects on creating text indexes on different aspects of Library Science and research works indexes (books, articles, reviews and so on).

*Ariadne* and *D-Lib Magazine* are two most popular electronic journals among Ukrainian LIS professionals, who referred to *Ariadne* 8 times and to *D-Lib Magazine* 11 times during the period from 2010 to 2015 in 5 studied Ukrainian LIS journals. Mostly PhD students made citations of these two electronic journals.



Table 2

## Open access LIS journals indexed in Scopus in 2015

№	Journal Title	Country	Years when cited by Ukrainian library specialists	Scopus	Web of Science
1	Aslib Journal of Information Management	UK	2010-2, 2013-2, 2014-1	x	x
2	Education and Information Technologies	UK		x	
3	Information Research and International Electronic Journal	UK	2012-1	x	x
4	Journal of Cheminformatics	UK		x	
5	Journal of Information Literacy	UK		x	
6	Library	UK		x	
7	Library and Information Science Research	UK		x	
8	LIBER Quarterly	NL		x	
9	Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France	FR		x	

The content of articles is considered to be the basic unit of communication not the journal itself. Article, as a leading communication unit, facilitates tracking and accumulating necessary information and reflects the main trends in Library and Information Science, education and practice. The conducted research reveals that articles in foreign LIS journals with the following thematic issues were referred to by Ukrainian LIS specialists and scientists:

- Creation of digital cultural heritage resources;
- Providing access to Internet resources and services;
- Creation of integrated environment in libraries;
- Library, information and personnel management;
- Interrelations between technology and people;
- Library information services improvement;
- Management of library innovations;
- Business development;

- Evaluation methods of library performance;
- Library and ecology;
- Cross-cultural communications and role of library in them;
- Classification in electronic environment;
- Bibliometrics.

Main conclusions are the following:

1. In general, Ukrainian LIS specialists refer to different LIS journals published in America, Europe and Asia, but the level of citation is very low.
2. Mostly they refer to LIS journals published in the USA, Great Britain and Germany.
3. The highest level of citation of foreign LIS journals carry on the authors of publications in *Bibliotechnyi visnyk* journal.
4. It is necessary to deepen professional communication in journals among LIS specialists as it would reduce the loss of information in terms of social and communication changes and would influence library performance in general. And in its turns it would



help to contribute into meeting people information needs and therefore it would improve their life quality.

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