

Authorship Pattern in Interdisciplinary Studies: Implications for Knowledge Transfer and Holistic Coverage of Nigeria

Muhammad Kabiru Usman, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to examine articles published in Bayero Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies (BJIS). The study was carried out quantitatively, 61 articles published in the Bayero Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies from 2008- 2013 were surveyed to carry out the study and descriptive statistics was used to make analysis. The collaboration of authors discovered in BJIS has very little implication for the national integration of Nigeria, 65.6% of articles published in BJIS were single authored and 75.4% of authors in BJIS come from the north-west region of Nigeria. 4 geographical regions of Nigeria were covered, while 2 were not covered at all in the journal. Data shows that knowledge transfer occur when authors from other regions publish in the north-west region where BJIS is published. It is recommended that publishers should carry out frequent assessment of where the articles they publish emanate from and use such assessment to achieve balance in the spread, visibility and patronage of their journal.

KEYWORDS

Author Collaboration, Authorship Pattern, Bibliometrics, Knowledge Transfer, National Integration

INTRODUCTION

An author is a person or group of persons responsible for the intellectual and artistic content of a document. The responsibility for authorship could be by a single person, a group of people, a corporate organization or a government. Thus, authorship constitutes a population from which emerges patterns such as single or multiple authorship (Udofia, 2002).

The value of authorship in the academic setting influences a lot in the hiring, tenure, promotion, awards and grants to scholars who teach in higher institutions of learning (Smith, Hunt & Master, 2014). Multiple or collaborative authorship involving two or more authors is a major drive in modern research. In fact, it is highly acknowledged in the academia. Compared to single authorship, collaborative authorship is more gratifying in terms of increased acceptance, expertise, accuracy and visibility (Osadebe, 2010).

DOI: 10.4018/IJLIS.2018070103

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Authorship study is a field of specialization in Library and Information Sciences. It is an important factor in citation analysis that helps in understanding the feature of modern science. Essentially, whenever the authorship in journals is studied, it creates a superficial portrait that describes quality, maturity and productivity of knowledge in a field or a zone (Anyi, Zainab & Annuar, 2009). Apart from revealing the salient features of a document, authorship pattern informs us of how authors communicate to their readers. Thus, evaluating sources is a very crucial part of a librarian's job. Harande (2001) substantiated that studying authors of documented information carried out using bibliometrics does not only lead to knowing authorship pattern alone, it also leads to knowing the most productive authors that could be referred by librarians to other researchers to conduct their research, and even libraries whenever the need to acquire information arises.

The documented information that is the focus of this study is *The Bayero Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* (BJIS). It is a bi-annual publication which serves as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange of ideas within the broad areas of social science, the humanities, pure and applied sciences, law, environmental studies, agriculture, education, technology and medicine. Basically, the journal is interested in researched articles and book reviews presented in clear and refreshing English and on afore-mentioned disciplines which discuss issues from multi-disciplinary perspective.

Apart from information about the most productive author in a subject, little is known about authorship pattern in *Bayero Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* (BJIS), let alone the geographical distribution of authors that would enable readers to know which geopolitical zone of Nigeria is most productive in communicating to the readers of *BJIS*. This study is carried out to portray authorship pattern, author collaboration and knowledge transfer among the geographical zones of Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives underlying the study are:

1. To determine the authorship pattern in *Bayero Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* (BJIS).
2. To measure the degree of collaboration in *Bayero Journal of interdisciplinary Studies* (BJIS).
3. To determine the geographical distribution of authored papers in *Bayero Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* (BJIS).
4. To uncover the degree of knowledge transfer in *Bayero journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* (BJIS).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Measuring authorship and author collaboration depend on the names of authors that appear on a document. Although, using names is a yardstick for measuring authorship pattern, academic fraud, such as where a person's name appears for social or economic reason without any intellectual contribution, undermines authenticity of authorship studies. According to Katz and Martin (1997), two main reasons are responsible for collaboration. One is that authors collaborate due to economic reasons, that is, the need to fund publishing. The second reason is that collaboration exists purely for intellectual and social influence.

Managements of academic institutions acknowledge the value of collaborative research and place emphasis on it, only that this acknowledged value and emphasis is not commensurate with the reward or credit given. Udofia (2002) noted that the reward system for intellectual work in Nigeria diminishes authorship pattern and the quest for increased collaboration. What the reward system looks like is such that credit received for authorship diminishes with addition of more authors to a piece of scholarly work.

Harande (2001) studied author productivity as a correlate of author collaboration in the literature of technology and discovered that productivity correlates with collaboration. The rate of authorship in

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