

A Study on Scholarly Productivity and Leadership Profiles of LIS Experts in India from Lib-Vahini Database

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the professional landscape of LIS experts in India using data from the LIB-VAHINI (Virtual Access Hub for Innovation, Networking, and Integration) platform, which includes 3,217 experts across more than 100 organizations. Analysis focuses on organization-wise and state-wise distribution, designation profiles, scholarly productivity, alt metric indicators, and prominent expert contributions. Results indicate that colleges and state public universities account for the majority of experts, with Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka showing the highest state-wise representation. Librarians constitute the largest professional group, followed by assistant librarians and assistant professors. A total of 39,702 publications, alongside high social media engagement and Mendeley readership, reflect strong scholarly output and digital presence. Leading institutions and distinguished experts are identified for their substantial contributions to the field. The findings offer insights for policymakers, academic administrators, and LIS professionals to enhance networking, skill development, research collaboration, and professional recognition in India.

Keywords: Academic Collaboration and Scholarly Productivity, LIB-VAHINI, LIS experts, Professional Networking.

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Received: 23-04-2026;

Revised: 03-06-2026;

Accepted: 17-07-2026.

INTRODUCTION

Library and Information Science (LIS) is an important field that focuses on organizing, managing, and sharing information. LIS professionals play a key role in supporting research, providing access to knowledge, and helping communities stay informed. With the growth of digital technologies, it has become important for LIS experts to be visible, connected, and recognized for their work.

To support this, the LIB-VAHINI (Virtual Access Hub for Innovation, Networking, and Integration) platform was created as a national database for LIS professionals in India. It allows practitioners, researchers, and academicians to showcase their profiles, achievements, and contributions. The platform also provides opportunities for networking, mentorship, collaboration, and career development, helping strengthen the professional identity of LIS experts.

LIB-VAHINI serves as a central repository of LIS talent, promoting skill development, resource sharing, and recognition. This study uses data from LIB-VAHINI to analyze expert profiles in India, including their organizational affiliations, state-wise distribution, designations, and scholarly contributions. The findings aim to provide a clear picture of the professional landscape of LIS experts and their role in supporting knowledge management in the country.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sangram *et al.* (2025) examined the LIB-VAHINI portal, launched by INFLIBNET to allow Indian LIS professionals to share profiles, achievements, and contributions. The study revealed that the portal, organized by state, institution, and designation, supports networking, collaboration, and professional visibility. It also motivates LIS professionals and enhances academic and research development. However, the study suggested that advanced search options, subject-specific publication listings, and better classification could further improve the portal's usefulness. Asha (2021) examined the Vidwan expert's database of scientists/researchers and other faculty members of Indian institutions. The study adopted web content analysis to collect data related to Vidwan database and it is found that Vidwan database has 54974 plus experts by organisation, 64314 plus subject wise



DOI: 10.5530/jcitation.20260286

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experts and 721999 plus citations, State University occupied in the first position with 14342 (26.08%) of experts in Organization category (Jeyapragash *et al.*, 2018). Examined the Vidwan expert's database of scientists / researchers and other faculty members of Indian Institutions. INFLIBNET Centre has taken an initiative to develop the Indian Experts Database called Vidwan and now it is available for the public free of cost to identify the subject experts for the respective fields. The Indian expert's database Vidwan has 23278 experts in an organizations category and 23143 experts in subject's category. Panda and Kannan (2016) explored the application of emerging technologies in VIDWAN subject expert database and discusses particularly about the expert's selection methods, database features and functionalities and its benefits. The article reviewed the current situation of the VIDWAN subject expert database and national researcher's network in India and recommends that it is the time to populate the database not only in India but also worldwide and in all scientific areas. Universities, R&D organisations and other academia too have an important role in populating this database.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Objective of the study is:

- To analyze the organization-wise distribution of LIS experts listed on LIB-VAHINI.
- To examine the distribution of scholarly resources and altmetric indicators associated with LIS experts.
- To study the scholarly profiles of prominent LIS experts in terms of research productivity and impact.
- To assess the state-wise distribution of LIS expert profiles across India.
- To identify the top ten organizations contributing the highest number of LIS experts.

- To analyze the distribution of LIS experts according to their academic and professional designations.

METHODOLOGY

The data for this study were collected from the LIB-VAHINI database (<https://LIB-VAHINI.inflibnet.ac.in/>) on 26th February 2026. At the time of data collection, the database included more than 3,217 experts from over 100 organizations, including 2,514+ library practitioners and 703+ teaching professionals. The collected data were organized and analyzed under various categories such as organization-wise distribution of experts, distribution of scholarly resources and *altmetric* indicators, analysis of prominent researcher profiles, designation-wise distribution, state-wise distribution, and identification of the top ten expert profiles in India. Simple calculations and percentage analysis were performed using Microsoft Office Excel.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Organisation-Wise Distribution Of Experts

Table 1 depicts the organization-wise distribution of experts. Colleges account for the highest share with 1,456 experts (47.69%), followed by State Public Universities with 639 experts (20.93%). Private Universities contribute 10.15%, while Central Universities and Deemed Universities represent 7.99% and 5.76% respectively. Other categories such as IITs and IISc, R&D Institutions, NITs, IIMs, and IISERs show comparatively lower representation. Overall, the data indicate that colleges and state public universities dominate the distribution of experts across organizational categories.

Scholarly Resources

Table 2 shows a large number of scholarly outputs, with 39,702 publications, while patents (147) are few. Among open access types, Gold Open Access (925) is higher than Green (134)

Table 1: Organisation-wise Distribution of Experts.

Sl. No.	Organization Category	No. of. Experts	%
1.	Colleges	1456	47.69
2.	State Public Universities	639	20.93
3.	Private Universities	310	10.15
4.	Central Universities	244	7.99
5.	Deemed Universities	176	5.76
6.	Others INIs	63	2.06
7.	IITs and IISc	49	1.60
8.	R and D Institutions	47	1.54
9.	NITs	35	1.15
10.	Others	19	0.62
11.	IIMs	11	0.36
12.	IISERs	4	0.13

and Bronze Open Access (122), showing a greater use of publisher-provided access. High social media activity (52,734) and Mendeley readership (272,645) indicate strong interest and use by the academic community. Overall, the data show both traditional research output and strong online impact.

Table 2: Distribution of Scholarly Resources and Altmetric Indicators.

Sl. No.	Scholarly Resources	Counts
1.	Publications	39,702
2.	Patents	147
3.	Gold OA	925
4.	Green OA	134
5.	Bronze OA	122
6.	News, Blogs and Policy	14,289
7.	Wiki	1,377
8.	Social media	52,734
9.	Mendeley	2,72,645

Prominent Experts' Profiles in LIS

Table 3 presents eminent experts in Library Science, categorized as Distinguished Experts, Vice Chancellors, and UGC Emeritus Professors, along with their affiliations, cities, and Scopus-recorded publications, citations, and h-index.

Among the Distinguished Experts, A. Neelameghan (Bangalore) is noted with 42 publications, 104 citations, and an h-index of 6, while T. B. Rajashekar (Bengaluru) has 5 publications, 45 citations, and an h-index of 2. Other distinguished experts, including B. S. Kesavan, K. M. Asadullah, P. N. Kaula, P. N. Panikkar, Rabindranath Tagore, and Sayyaji Rao Gaekwad, are recognized for their foundational contributions to the field.

Among Vice Chancellors, B. D. Kumbar (Davangere University) has 19 publications, 57 citations, and an h-index of 5. Prof. Uma Kanjilal (IGNOU, New Delhi), the first woman Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, has 16 publications, 42 citations, and an h-index of 3, reflecting her scholarly engagement alongside her pioneering leadership. Other Vice Chancellors, including T. D. Kemparaju, H. N. Prasad, Roshan Lal Raina, and V. G. Talawar, are recognized

Table 3: Scholarly profiles of prominent experts in LIS.

Role of the Eminent Experts	Name of Eminent Experts	Affiliation	Scopus Database			
			City	Publications	Citations	h-index
Distinguished	A. Neelameghan	Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science	Bangalore	42	104	6
	B.S. Kesavan	The National Library India	Kolkata	2	-	-
	K. M. Asadullah	Imperial Library	Calcutta	-	-	-
	P. N. Kaula	Lucknow University	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-
	P. N. Panikkar	Sanadanadharmam Library	Kerala	-	-	-
	Rabindranath Tagore	Bengal Library Association	Bengal	-	-	-
	Sayyaji Rao Gaekwad	Public library movement in India	Baroda	-	-	-
Vice Chancellor	T. B. Rajashekar	Indian Institute of Science	Bengaluru	5	45	2
	B. D. Kumbar	Davangere University	Davanagere	19	57	5
	H. N. Prasad	Nalanda Open University	Nalanda	2	17	1
	Roshan Lal Raina	Jaipur National University	Jaipur	5	14	2
	T. D. Kemparaju	Bangalore North University	Bangalore	6	41	4
	Uma Kanjilal	Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)	New Delhi	16	42	3
UGC Emeritus	V. G. Talawar	University of Mysore	Mysore	5	58	3
	A. S. Chandel	North Eastern Hill University	Shillong	3	27	2
	Ashwini Anand V.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	Aurangabad	-	-	-
	C. R. Karisiddappa	Karnatak University Dharwad	Dharwad	17	133	9
	M. P. SATIJA	Guru Nanak Dev University	Amritsar	34	132	7
	Laxman Rao N	Osmania University	Hyderabad	1	1	1

for their contributions, with publication counts ranging from 2 to 6.

In the UGC Emeritus Professors category, scholars such as C. R. Karisiddappa (Dharwad) and M. P. Satija (Amritsar) show substantial publication records, while others are acknowledged for their leadership and academic service, reflecting diverse contributions to the field.

Overall, Table highlights the wide-ranging expertise, leadership, and scholarly engagement of Library Science professionals across

India, combining historical contributions with contemporary achievements and milestones.

State-Wise Expert Profiles

Table 4 shows the state-wise distribution of experts, providing an overview of their concentration across India. Tamil Nadu leads with 506 experts (16.48%), followed by Maharashtra (12.73%) and Karnataka (12.08%), reflecting a strong presence in the southern and western parts of the country. West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh also have notable numbers, and together, the top

Table 4: Distribution of State-wise Expert Profiles.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of. Experts	%
1.	Tamil Nadu	506	16.48
2.	Maharashtra	391	12.73
3.	Karnataka	371	12.08
4.	West Bengal	267	8.69
5.	Uttar Pradesh	169	5.50
6.	Gujarat	165	5.37
7.	Andhra Pradesh	139	4.53
8.	Kerala	133	4.33
9.	Delhi	119	3.87
10.	Telangana	98	3.19
11.	Punjab	86	2.80
12.	Haryana	77	2.51
13.	Madhya Pradesh	68	2.21
14.	Assam	61	1.99
15.	Chhattisgarh	58	1.89
16.	Rajasthan	53	1.73
17.	Odisha	50	1.63
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	44	1.43
19.	Bihar	43	1.40
20.	Uttarakhand	32	1.04
21.	Chandigarh	26	0.85
22.	Puducherry	19	0.62
23.	Goa	18	0.59
24.	Himachal Pradesh	16	0.52
25.	Jharkhand	14	0.46
26.	Tripura	13	0.42
27.	Meghalaya	12	0.39
28.	Mizoram	9	0.29
29.	Manipur	6	0.20
30.	Nagaland	3	0.10
31.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0.07
32.	Sikkim	2	0.07
33.	Ladakh	1	0.03

Table 5: Experts by Top Ten Organizations in India.

Sl. No.	Name of the Organization	No. of. Experts	%
1.	University of Delhi	40	21.51
2.	Annamalai University	23	12.37
3.	Banaras Hindu University	21	11.29
4.	Bangalore University	18	9.68
5.	Information and Library Network Centre	18	9.68
6.	Savitribai Phule Pune University	17	9.14
7.	Chandigarh University	14	7.53
8.	Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management	12	6.45
9.	Marthandam College of Engineering and Technology	12	6.45
10.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	11	5.91

Table 6: Distribution of Experts by Designation.

Sl. No.	Name of the Designation	No. of. Experts	%
1.	Librarian	1220	46.55
2.	Assistant Librarian	514	19.61
3.	Assistant Professor	233	8.89
4.	Deputy Librarian	158	6.03
5.	Professor	136	5.19
6.	Chief Librarian	90	3.43
7.	Library Assistant	74	2.82
8.	Librarian (Associate Professor Scale)	68	2.59
9.	College Librarian	66	2.52
10.	Associate Professor	62	2.37

five states account for more than half of all experts, indicating areas of significant professional activity. Other states and union territories have comparatively smaller numbers, showing that the distribution of experts varies widely across the country. This variation highlights patterns of professional concentration and offers insight into how expertise is spread across different states, which may inform future planning, networking, and resource development initiatives for expert communities.

Experts by Organization Categories

Table 5 presents the top ten organizations in India based on the number of library science experts. University of Delhi ranks first with 40 experts (21.51%), followed by Annamalai University (12.37%) and Banaras Hindu University (11.29%). Bangalore University and the Information and Library Network Centre each contribute 9.68%, while Savitribai Phule Pune University accounts for 9.14%. Chandigarh University (7.53%), Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (6.45%), Marthandam College of Engineering and Technology (6.45%), and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (5.91%) make up the remainder. These top ten institutions indicate that library science expertise in India is concentrated in major universities and specialized centers, highlighting their important role in the field.

Experts in Designation-wise

Table 6 depicts the designation-wise distribution of experts involved in the study. Among the various categories, librarians constitute the largest group with 1220 experts (46.55%), occupying the first position and indicating their predominant participation. This is followed by assistant librarians, who account for 514 experts (19.61%) and occupy the second position. Assistant professors represent 233 experts (8.89%), placing them in the third position. Deputy librarians and professors contribute 158 (6.03%) and 136 (5.19%) experts, respectively, reflecting moderate representation. Further, chief librarians account for 90 experts (3.43%), while library assistants constitute 74 experts (2.82%). The remaining designations-librarians (associate professor scale) with 68 experts (2.59%), college librarians with 66 experts (2.52%), and associate professors with 62 experts (2.37%)-occupy subsequent positions and show comparatively lower participation.

CONCLUSION

The present study provides a comprehensive overview of the professional and scholarly landscape of LIS experts in India, as captured by the LIB-VAHINI platform. The findings indicate a concentration of expertise in colleges and state public

universities, with key contributions from major institutions such as the University of Delhi, Annamalai University, and Banaras Hindu University. State-wise analysis demonstrates that southern and western states, particularly Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, host a significant proportion of LIS professionals. Designation-wise distribution shows that librarians constitute the largest professional group, reflecting their central role in knowledge management and library services. Scholarly outputs, including publications, patents, and *altmetric* indicators, underscore both traditional research productivity and contemporary digital engagement. Profiles of prominent experts, including Distinguished Experts, Vice Chancellors, and UGC Emeritus Professors, highlight leadership, academic excellence, and enduring contributions to the field. These insights emphasize the importance of professional visibility, networking, and skill development facilitated by platforms like LIB-VAHINI. The study not only informs institutional and policy-level decision-making but also supports strategies for enhancing collaboration, mentorship, and the overall impact of LIS professionals in India.

ABBREVIATIONS

LIS: Library and Information Science; **LIB-VAHINI:** Virtual Access Hub for Innovation, Networking, and Integration; **OA:** Open Access; **R&D:** Research and Development; **IITs:** Indian Institutes of Technology; **IISc:** Indian Institute of Science; **NITs:** National Institutes of Technology; **IIMs:** Indian Institutes of Management; **IISERs:** Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research; **INIs:** Institutes of National Importance; **IGNOU:**

Indira Gandhi National Open University; **UGC:** University Grants Commission.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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Cite this article: Gunaseelan S, Abbas ML, Rajkumar N, Shanmuganathi A. A Study on Scholarly Productivity and Leadership Profiles of LIS Experts in India from Lib-Vahini Database. *Journal of Data Science, Informetrics, and Citation Studies*. 2026;5(2):129-34.