IMPACT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH ON DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY DOCUMENTS AS REFERENCES

IMPACTO DE LA INVESTIGACIÓN EN BIBLIOTECONOMÍA Y CIENCIAS DE LA INFORMACIÓN EN EL DESARROLLO DE DOCUMENTOS POLÍTICOS COMO REFERENCIA

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Being referenced and cited by policy documents is crucial for demonstrating the social impact of research. This study aims to assess the impact of Library and Information Science (LIS) research on development of policy documents as references. **Design/Methodology/Approach**: The research method uses bibliometric and altmetric methods. The data for this study comprises LIS research indexed in Scopus and policy document data sourced from the Altmetric Explorer for Researchers, with data collection extending up to the year 2024. **Results/Discusion**: The findings show that Information Systems Research (229) is the LIS journal most frequently cited by policy documents. The Publications Office of the European Union is identified as the institution that most frequently produces policy documents citing LIS research. Additionally, the United States emerges as the country generating the highest number of policy documents citing LIS research **Conclusions**: Based on the findings, The impact of LIS research on development of policy documents as references remains suboptimal when compared to the volume of research published by LIS journals. **Originality/Value**. Enhancing the citation rate of LIS research by policymakers can be achieved by strengthening evidence, identifying topic trends, promoting open access, disseminating research on social media, and encouraging government efforts to emphasize the importance of using research as a reference in policy-making.
KEYWORDS: LIS research; policy documents; bibliometrics

RESUMEN

Objetivo: Ser referenciado y citado por documentos políticos es crucial para demostrar el impacto social de la investigación. Este estudio pretende evaluar el impacto de la investigación en Biblioteconomía y Documentación (Biblioteconomía y Documentación) en el desarrollo de documentos políticos como

referencia **Diseño/Metodología/Enfoque:** El método de investigación utiliza métodos bibliométricos y altmétricos. Los datos para este estudio comprenden la investigación en biblioteconomía y documentación indexada en Scopus y los datos de documentos políticos obtenidos de Altmetric Explorer for Researchers, con una recopilación de datos que se extiende hasta el año 2024. **Resultados/Discusión:** Los resultados muestran que Information Systems Research (229) es la revista LIS más citada por los documentos políticos. La Oficina de Publicaciones de la Unión Europea se identifica como la institución que más frecuentemente produce documentos políticos citando la investigación en LIS. Además, Estados Unidos aparece como el país que genera el mayor número de documentos políticos que citan la investigación en biblioteconomía y documentación. **Conclusiones:** En base a los resultados, El impacto de la investigación LIS en el desarrollo de documentos de política como referencias sigue siendo subóptima en comparación con el volumen de la investigación publicada por las revistas LIS. **Originalidad/Valor:** La mejora de la tasa de citación de la investigación LIS por los responsables políticos se puede lograr mediante el fortalecimiento de la evidencia, la identificación de las tendencias temáticas, la promoción del acceso abierto, la difusión de la investigación en los medios sociales, y el fomento de los esfuerzos del gobierno para enfatizar la importancia de utilizar la investigación como referencia en la formulación de políticas.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Investigación en biblioteconomía y documentación política; bibliometría.

INTRODUCTION

Indicators for measuring the impact of research contributions are multifaceted and complex, encompassing various levels such as individual researchers (e.g., h-index and altmetrics), scientific journals (e.g., impact factors), and universities or countries (e.g., rankings) (Bornmann & Haunschild, 2018; Dolenc et al., 2016). Traditionally, the impact of research has been quantified by the number of citations a study receives (Ion et al., 2017). However, the impact is often represented in statistical or quantitative terms, with qualitative assessments being less common (Irawan et al., 2021; Lutz & Hoffmann, 2018; Ullah et al., 2024). For instance, research on the impact of research funding in China has shown an increase in the quantity of research output, but the quality impact remains limited (Song et al., 2025). Research impact indicators such as citation counts and journal impact factors are primarily utilized within the academic community and do not directly translate to broader public impact (Drongstrup et al., 2020; Garcovich & Adobes Martin, 2020), such as influencing government policy documents (Sifuna et al., 2024; Sterlacchini, 2019; Vílchez-Román et al., 2024).

Policy documents are official records that hold significant value in outlining policy strategies, frameworks, and technical steps for decision-making (Macheridis, 2015; Weigand et al., 2025). They are crucial for assessing the social impact of research (Lauronen, 2022; Viana-Lora & Nel-lo-Andreu, 2023). The development of policy documents can be initiated by government requests for research-based policies addressing direct issues. Policymakers often rely on research findings as references when drafting policy documents (Hui et al., 2020; Obuku et al., 2018; Weinberg, 2021). Conversely, researchers may independently produce policy documents, such as policy briefs, to ensure their work is practically beneficial to the community (Crawford et al., 2025; Okoye et al., 2025; Sadeghi-Naini et al., 2024). Government requests for research are typically aligned with priority programs and are funded to ensure that policy-making is more targeted. Consequently, there is an increasing demand for research that extends beyond academia (Dolenc et al., 2016; Vilkins & Grant, 2017). Such research must align with government needs, be trending on social media, and provide robust evidence (Nutley et al., 2012; Vílchez-Román et al., 2024; Vilkins & Grant, 2017). Additionally, open access publication is crucial to facilitate citation by policymakers (Vilkins & Grant, 2017). Governments are increasingly promoting the importance of evidence-based policy-making. The Research-to-Policy Collaboration (RPC) model was developed to assist policymakers in transforming research findings into actionable knowledge to support decision-making (Crowley et al., 2018; Young et al., 2002). The academic community and researchers strive to ensure their work impacts and is considered by policymakers (Chandler, 2006; Ray et al., 2022).

This study aims to examine the impact of Library and Information Science (LIS) research on development of policy documents as references. Specifically, the research analyzes the journals most frequently cited by

policy documents, the LIS articles most cited by policy documents, the countries producing the most policy documents citing LIS research, and the institutions that most frequently cite LIS research in policy documents

METHOD

Data collection and data selection

Data collection was conducted using the Scopus database. The initial stage involved searching for Library and Information Science (LIS) journals on Scopus database, with data collection extending up to the year 2024, resulting in a preliminary dataset of 369 journals. The researchers then performed a selection process, excluding journals that were discontinued (88 journals) and those not categorized under LIS (93 journals). Ultimately, only journals classified under the code 280 (Library and Information Science) were retained, resulting in a total of 188 journals, as detailed in Table 1. Additionally, the researchers collected data on the total number of LIS documents available in Scopus based on their International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), as presented in Appendix A. Furthermore, data were gathered regarding the publishers of these journals, identifying the top six publishers of LIS journals, which are summarized in Table 2.

Table 1. *Selection of LIS Journals*

LIS journal	Total
Initial data	369
Discontinued	88
not categories LIS	93
LIS journal selection (code 280/Library and information science)	188

Table 2. *Top 5 publishers of LIS journals*

Publisher LIS journal	Total
Taylor & Francis	33
Emerald Publishing	22
Springer Nature	11
Elsevier	6
SAGE	5
……..	….
……..	….
Independent journal	88
Total	188

Publisher of LIS journals are predominantly independent, with funding primarily sourced from universities or associations such as the American Library Association, the Medical Library Association, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and Universidad Nacional de La Plata, among others (see Appendix C).

Data processing and data analysis

The researchers collected data on policy documents that cited LIS research using the Altmetric Explorer for Researchers, based on the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). Altmetric.com serves as a tool to track and identify policy documents that reference research findings (Tattersall & Carroll, 2017). This

platform aggregates data from various sources, including news media, social media, blogs, Wikipedia citations, Mendeley saves, patents, and policy documents (Rasuli & Nabavi, 2024; Tattersall & Carroll, 2017). It enables researchers to ascertain how frequently research findings are utilized as references in the formulation of policy documents by specific institutions or countries (Tattersall & Carroll, 2017; Yu et al., 2023). The types of outputs analyzed included articles, datasets, books, clinical trial records, book chapters, and news stories. The types of open access were categorized as bronze, green, gold, hybrid, and closed access. The analysis focused on outputs available until December 31, 2024. The researchers conducted an analysis of the journals most frequently cited by policy documents, the LIS articles most cited by policy documents, the countries producing the most policy documents citing LIS research, and the institutions that authored policy documents referencing LIS research.

RESULT

This study aims to assess the impact of Library and Information Science (LIS) research on development of policy documents as references, specifically identifying the most cited LIS journals in the formulation of policy documents. The findings indicate that *Information Systems Research* is the LIS journal most frequently cited by policy documents, with a total of 229 citations. Following this, the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* is cited 195 times, and the *Journal of Informetrics* is cited 178 times in policy documents. The top 12 LIS journals most cited by policy documents are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. *Top 12 LIS Journals Most Frequently Cited by Policy Documents*

No	Journal	Total cited by policy documents
1	Information Systems Research	229
2	International Journal of Geographical Information Science	195
3	Journal of Informetrics	178
4	Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling	164
5	Health Information & Libraries Journal	160
6	World Patent Information	139
7	Ethics and Information Technology	129
8	IEEE Transactions on Information Theory	127
9	Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology	121
10	Social Science Information	119
11	European Journal of Information Systems	81
12	Journal of Information Science	75

The researchers also examined the most frequently cited Library and Information Science (LIS) articles referenced in policy documents. The titles of the most cited articles in the formulation of policy documents are as follows: The article titled "A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies" is the most cited, with 41 citations. "LISFLOOD: a GIS? based distributed model for river basin scale water balance and flood simulation" follows with 22 citations. "Assessing private R&D spending in Europe for climate change mitigation technologies via patent data" has received 18 citations. The top 10 most cited articles by policy documents are summarized in Table 4.
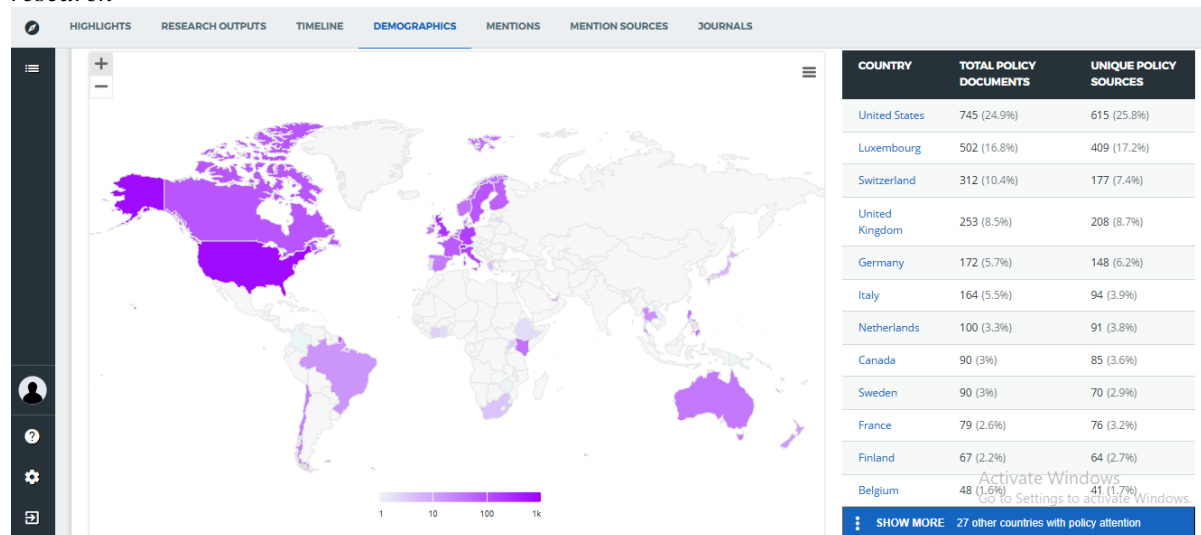
Table 4. *Top 10 Most Cited Articles by Policy Document*

No	Journal	Total cited by policy documents
1	A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review	41

4

	types and associated methodologies	
2	LISFLOOD: a GIS? based distributed model for river basin scale water balance and flood simulation	22
3	Assessing private R&D spending in Europe for climate change mitigation technologies via patent data	18
4	Big other: Surveillance Capitalism and the Prospects of an Information Civilization	16
5	Benefits, Adoption Barriers and Myths of Open Data and Open Government	16
6	Addressing Attribution through Contribution Analysis: Using Performance Measures Sensibly	16
7	Food, self and identity	16
8	SQL query to increase data accuracy and completeness in PATSTAT	16
9	Gray Literature: Its Emerging Importance	13
10	Who publishes in "predatory" journals?	12

The researchers also analyzed the countries that produce the most policy documents citing Library and Information Science (LIS) research. The findings indicate that the United States leads in this regard, with a total of 745 policy documents referencing LIS research. Following the United States, Luxembourg has produced 502 policy documents, Switzerland has 312, and the United Kingdom has 253 policy documents. Additional countries that contribute to the citation of LIS research in policy documents are illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. *The countries that produce the most policy documents citing Library and Information Science (LIS) research*

COUNTRY	TOTAL POLICY DOCUMENTS	UNIQUE POLICY SOURCES
United States	745 (24.9%)	615 (25.8%)
Luxembourg	502 (16.8%)	409 (17.2%)
Switzerland	312 (10.4%)	177 (7.4%)
United Kingdom	253 (8.5%)	208 (8.7%)
Germany	172 (5.7%)	148 (6.2%)
Italy	164 (5.5%)	94 (3.9%)
Netherlands	100 (3.3%)	91 (3.8%)
Canada	90 (3%)	85 (3.6%)
Sweden	90 (3%)	70 (2.9%)
France	79 (2.6%)	76 (3.2%)
Finland	67 (2.2%)	64 (2.7%)
Belgium	48 (1.6%)	41 (1.7%)
SHOW MORE	27 other countries with policy attention	

Source: Altmetric Explorer for Researchers software

The researchers also investigated the institutions that produce policy documents most frequently citing Library and Information Science (LIS) research. The Publications Office of the European Union is identified as the institution that cites LIS research the most, with a total of 502 citations. Following this, the World Health Organization (WHO) has cited LIS research 228 times, the National Academies Press has 210 citations, and the World Bank has cited LIS research 152 times. Additional institutions that produce policy documents citing LIS research are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. *Institutions Producing Policy Documents That Cite LIS Research*

Attention	Institution	Country	Number of

source			mentions
Policy source	The Publications Office of the European Union	Luxembourg	502
Policy source	World Health Organization (WHO)	Switzerland	228
Policy source	National Academies Press	United States	210
Policy source	World Bank	United States	152
Policy source	National Bureau of Economic Research	United States	135
Policy source	CESIfo	Germany	123
Policy source	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Italy	120
Policy source	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	United States	65
Policy source	Finnish Prime Minister's Office	Finland	64
Policy source	UK Government (GOV.UK)	United Kingdom	61

DISCUSSION

The Library and Information Science (LIS) journal most frequently cited by policy documents is *Information Systems Research*, with a total of 229 citations (see Table 3). This journal boasts a high impact factor of 4.18 and an h-index of 185, indicating its commitment to publishing high-quality research based on robust evidence. Furthermore, *Information Systems Research* emphasizes international collaboration among authors, with an average collaboration rate of 81.4% from 1980 to 2012 (Xu et al., 2014). Journals characterized by high levels of international collaboration tend to have a greater impact, which in turn enhances their citation in policy documents (Z. Huang et al., 2022). The most cited LIS article in policy documents is titled "A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies" (see Table 4). This article, published in 2009, addresses a typology of reviews that has gained increasing interest over time. The likelihood of research being utilized as a reference in policy documents is significantly higher when the topic is trending (Nutley et al., 2012), and government research often aligns with current trends and open access publications (Vilkins & Grant, 2017). The citation rate of LIS research in policy documents is likely to increase if the research focuses on the strength of evidence and engages with social media (Vílchez-Román et al., 2024) , addresses trending topics (Birbili & Hedges, 2022; Goldstone, 2020), and fosters international collaboration (Z. Huang et al., 2022). The United States is the country producing the most policy documents that cite LIS research (see Figure 1). This reflects a recognition of the importance of developing policy documents based on research findings. Previous studies have corroborated that the United States is a dominant player in the creation of policy documents that reference LIS research (Z. Huang et al., 2022; Zong et al., 2023). The institution that generates the most policy documents citing LIS research is the Publications Office of the European Union (see Table 4). Research articles resulting from international collaboration may be particularly effective in providing evidence for policy development by international organizations (Z. Huang et al., 2022). Prior research indicates that policymakers are more inclined to engage with research stemming from international collaborations, as such research is perceived to have a greater impact and stronger evidence (Ibáñez et al., 2013).

Despite these findings, the impact of LIS research on the creation of policy documents remains suboptimal. The comparison of the number of LIS research documents to the policy documents citing LIS research reveals that only 1.68% of LIS research is referenced (see Appendix A and Appendix B). This observation is supported by previous studies indicating that the percentage of LIS research documents cited in policy

documents is still relatively low (Z. Huang et al., 2022; Zong et al., 2023). While *Information Systems Research* is the most cited journal with 229 citations, it has a total of 1,432 documents, resulting in a citation rate of only 15.99% (see Table 3 and Appendix A). Given the results of this study, it is essential to involve LIS research findings in the formulation of policy documents. Notably, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) seldom utilize LIS research to the same extent as the Publications Office of the European Union. For managers of LIS journals, it is crucial to create dedicated scopes that provide space for topics related to "policy," thereby encouraging research that focuses on the policy domain. This approach could enhance the contribution of LIS research to the development of policy documents. Additionally, government initiatives should promote the importance of utilizing research, particularly LIS research, by policymakers in the creation of policy documents.

CONCLUSION

The impact of Library and Information Science (LIS) research on development of policy documents as references remains suboptimal when compared to the volume of research published by LIS journals. The production of policy documents citing LIS research is predominantly led by the United States and European countries, while Asian countries exhibit a lower awareness of the significance of LIS research as a reference for policy formulation. Future research should focus on enhancing the citation of LIS research by policymakers. This can be achieved by strengthening the evidence base of LIS research, aligning research topics with current trends, promoting open access, disseminating findings through social media, and increasing government efforts to emphasize the importance of utilizing research as a reference in the development of policy documents.

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Appendix A. *Total publications of LIS journals*

No	Journal title	Total documents
1	European Journal of Information Systems	1233
2	International Journal of Information Management Data Insights	307
3	Information Systems Management	1371
4	Journal of Cheminformatics	1179
5	Information and Organization	371
6	International Journal of Geographical Information Science	2385
7	Journal of Information Technology	1117
8	Bottom Line	1172
9	Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling	7398
10	Information Systems Research	1432
11	Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology	1600
12	Hi Tech Library	2158
13	Information Technology and People	1334
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…	……….	…………
188	European Journal of Information Systems	1233
Total		177603

Appendix B. *Total cited by policy documents*

No	Journal title	Total cited by policy documents
1	Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling	164
2	IEEE Transactions on Information Theory	127
3	Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology	121
4	Personal and Ubiquitous Computing	41
5	Journal of the Medical Library Association	49
6	Journal of Cheminformatics	19
7	International Journal of Geographical Information Science	195
8	College & Research Libraries	14
9	Journal of Informetrics	178
10	Journal of Information Science	75
11	Journal of Documentation	52
12	Online Information Review	39

13	Health Information & Libraries Journal	160
…	………..	…………
…	………..	…………
188	Information Systems Research	229
Total		2987

Appendix C. *Publisher LIS journals*

LIS journal	Total journal
Taylor & Francis	33
Emerald Publishing	22
Springer Nature	11
Elsevier	6
SAGE	5
John Wiley & Sons	3
Association of College and Research Libraries	3
American Library Association	3
Walter de Gruyter	2
The Gruyter Sauer	2
IGI Global Publishing	2
IOS Press	2
Inderscience Publishers	2
Chinese Academy of Sciences	2
Johns Hopkins University Press	2
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences	1
National University	1
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico	1
Universidad Nacional de La Plata	1
Medical Library Association	1
World Scientific	1
Ubiquity Press	1
National Taiwan University	1
Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology	1
Scientific Library of Ukrainian State University of Science and Technologies	1
Association of Austrian Librarians (VÖB)	1
IEEE	1
Chemistry Central	1
American Chemical Society	1
INFORMS Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences	1
International Council for Open and Distance Education	1
GreyNet	1
University of Chicago Press	1
Oxford University Press	1
Communications in Information Literacy	1
CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Scientificas	1
Igitur, Utrecht Publishing and Archiving Services	1
Institute of Information Science	1

Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology	1
Cherkas Global University Press	1
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile	1
University of Toronto Press	1
Defense Scientific Information and Documentation Center	1
United Kingdom Serials Group	1
Prague University of Economics and Business	1
Information Science Institute	1
National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR)	1
Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation	1
Iowa State University Digital Press	1
Canadian Association for Information Science	1
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	1
CILIP Information Literacy Group	1
Editorial Office of Journal of Library Science in China	1
International Society for Knowledge Organization	1
Phcog.Net	1
Australian Society of Archivists	1
Thomas Daniel Wilson	1
Natural Sciences Publishing	1
Department of Information Management, University of the Punjab	1
American Association of School Librarians	1
Korea Institute of Information Science and Technology	1
Canadian Health Libraries Association	1
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Organization and Informatics	1
Centro Nacional de Información de Ciencias Medicas	1
Universidade Estadual de Campinas	1
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina	1
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliotecologicas	1
Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Campinas	1
University of Alberta	1
Association of Canadian Archivists	1
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	1
Escuela Interamericana de Bibliotecologia	1
John Benjamins Publishing Company	1
Regional Information Center for Science and Technology	1
University of Zaragoza	1
Vilnius University Press	1
Editorial Office of Documentation, Information and Knowledge	1
Nanyang Technological University	1
Editorial Board of Journal of Modern Information	1
Associazione Italiana Biblioteche	1
Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba Jose Marti	1
Airlangga University Faculty of Vocational Studies	1
Hrvatsko Knjiznicarsko Drustvo	1

Archlib and Information Services Ltd	1
Common Ground Research Networks	1
University of Rosario	1
Escola de Ciencia and Informacao and UFMG	1
Tehran University of Medical Sciences	1
Programa de Pos-Graduacao em Gestao da Informacao, Universidade Federal do Parana	1
University of Brasilia	1
University of Barcelona	1
Vittorio Klostermann	1
Information Today	1
Facultad de Filosofia y Letras - Universidad de Zaragoza	1
University and Research Librarians Association, Ankara	1
Mita Society for Library and Information Science	1
University Library System, University of Pittsburgh	1
Maribor Provincial Archives	1
McFarland and Company, Inc	1
Ecole Nationale Superieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliotheques	1
The Research Publication	1
Scientific Association of Manuscript Research and Codicology of IRAN	1
BPAS Publications	1
Total	**188**