

**A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND
OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006**

**A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND
OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006**

BY

Grace C. Sitienei

**Submitted to the Department of Library and Information Science
For the Award of
Master of Library and Information Science**

University of Zululand

©2009

.....

Grace C. Sitienei

Grace C. Sitienei

DECLARATION

I wish to declare that this thesis, “ A Comparison of Research and Publication Patterns and Output among Academic Librarians in Eastern and Southern Africa between 1990 to 2006”, is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university and that all sources used in this work have been acknowledged by citations.

.....

Grace C. Sitienei

.....

Supervisor

.....

Date

**A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND
OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006**

ii

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my son Ira Kiprop, my father and mum, George and Elizabeth Sitienei, and my brother Benard Kitur for their support and patience while I was away from them.

Grace C. Sitienei

iii

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the following persons for their assistance towards the completion of this study, without their support this research would not have been complete.

My first appreciation goes to the almighty God, who provided me with the wisdom to write this thesis.

To my research supervisor, Professor Ocholla, D. for his continued guidance and support in the production of this thesis.

I am grateful to my parents, George and Elizabeth Sitienei, for paying my fees and baby sitting my son, whom I left under their care at the age of three months.

To my brother, Benard Kitur for providing me with a laptop and supporting me financially. My outmost thanks also goes to my sisters, Esther Sitonik, Roda, Joyce, Nora, Sarah, and Alice, and my brothers William and Enock Kitur and my cousins Dr. Sigillai and Timoh Siele for their continued support and encouragement during my studies.

To the South African Government, for allowing me to come to the University of Zululand to study.

**A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND
OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006**

iv

To the University of Zululand for funding this research study and allowing me to work at the library as a student assistant.

To my greatest friend Julie Koech and Toyin for their support and encouragement through out my studies

To my employer, Eldoret Polytechnic for granting me a study leave

And finally, to my fellow Kenyans at the University of Zululand for their ideas and moral support.

I want to tell them all that their contribution meant so much to me and may God bless them.

Grace C. Sitienei

v

**A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND
OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006**

TABLE OF CONTENT

Title.....	i
Declaration.....	ii
Dedication.....	iii
Acknowledgement.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	vi
List of tables.....	x
List of Figures.....	xiii
List of Abbreviations and acronyms.....	xiv
Abstract.....	xv
Chapter One: Introduction and background to the study	
1.1 Introduction and conceptual framework.....	1
1.2 Definition, roles, objectives and purpose of academic libraries.....	3
1.3 Problem statement.....	3
1.4 Aim of the study.....	4
1.5 Research objectives.....	4
1.6 Research questions.....	5
1.7 Significance of the study.....	5
1.8 Scope of the study.....	5
1.9 Literature review.....	6
1.10 Research method.....	6
1.11 Organization of the report.....	7
1.12 Work plan.....	8
1.13 Definition of terms.....	9
1.14 Summary.....	10

Grace C. Sitienei

Chapter two: Literature review

2.1 Introduction.....	11
2.2 Conceptual framework.....	12
2.3 Bibliometrics.....	12
2.4 Librametry, informetrics, and scientometrics.....	19
2.5 Webometrics.....	21
2.6 Collaboration of authors.....	22
2.7 The role of academic librarians.....	23
2.8 Why academic librarians should publish.....	26
2.9 Related studies in publication patterns and output of academic librarians.....	29
2.10 Summary.....	38

Chapter three: Research methodology

3.1 Introduction.....	39
3.2 Research methodology.....	39
3.3 Bibliometrics as a research method.....	39
3.4 Target population.....	40
3.5 Study area.....	42
3.6 Sampling.....	44
3.6.1 Sample frame and sample size.....	44
3.7 Instruments of data collections.....	47
3.8 Data collection procedure.....	48
3.9 Data analysis.....	50
3.10 Pilot study.....	51
3.11 Problems encountered.....	51
3.12 Summary.....	54

A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006

vii

Chapter four: Data analysis and presentation

4.1 Introduction.....	55
4.2 Regional distribution of publications.....	55
4.3 Country wide distribution of publications.....	56
4.4 Distribution of publication by academic libraries.....	57
4.5 Distribution of publication by academic librarians.....	59
4.6 Distribution of publications by sources	64
4.7 Trends of publications output by region from 1990 to 2006.....	68
4.8 Distribution of publication by subjects.....	70
4.9 Distribution of publication by type of documents.....	74
4.10 Nature of collaboration among academic librarians.....	75
4.11 Summary.....	76

Chapter five: Discussion of findings

5.1 Introduction.....	79
5.2 Why academic librarians should publish.....	79
5.3 Most productive region and country.....	81
5.4 Most productive academic libraries.....	82
5.5 Most productive academic librarian.....	84
5.6 Most popular journal.....	85
5.7 Research trends in Eastern and Southern Africa.....	86
5.8 Most researched subject.....	87

Grace C. Sitienei

viii

5.9 Most published type of document.....	88
5.10 Nature of collaboration among academic librarians.....	88
5.11 Summary.....	89

Chapter six: Recommendation and Conclusion

6.1 Introduction.....	90
6.2 Conclusion.....	90
6.3 Gaps and inconsistencies.....	91
6.4 Recommendations.....	92
6.4.1 Why should academic librarians should publish.....	92
6.4.2 What do academic librarians publish.....	92
6.4.3 Do academic librarians publish.....	93
6.4.4 How much do academic librarians publish.....	93
6.4.5 What is the publication trend of academic librarians.....	94
6.4.6 Do academic librarians collaborate.....	94
6.5 Suggestions for further research.....	94
Bibliography.....	96
Appendix A.....	107
Appendix B.....	111

ix

**A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND
OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006**

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Timeline of bibliometrics by Rousseau.....	15
Table 2: Target population of the study.....	41
Table 3: Public University libraries.....	45
Table 4: Distribution of Publications by academic libraries.....	58
Table 5: Distribution of Publication by academic librarians.....	59
Table 6: Distribution of Publications by sources.....	64
Table 7: Distribution of Publications by subject.....	70
Table 8: Distribution of academic libraries in Eastern African public universities.....	105
Table 9: Distribution of academic libraries in Southern African public universities.....	108
Table 10: University of Nairobi library staff.....	159
Table 11: Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology library staff.....	160
Table 12: Moi University library staff.....	160
Table 13: University of Dar es salaam library staff.....	161
Table 14: Mzumbe University library staff.....	161
Table 15: Makerere University library staff.....	162
Table 16: University of Cape Town library staff.....	163
Table 17: University of Fort Hare library staff.....	164
Table 18: University of Pretoria library staff.....	165
Table 19: University of Rhodes library staff.....	168
Table 20: Western Cape University library staff.....	169
Table 21: University of Stellenbosch library staff.....	170
Table 22: University of Witwatersrand library staff.....	170

Grace C. Sitienei

x

Table 23: University of Johannesburg library staff.....	171
Table 24: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University library staff.....	172
Table 25: University of South Africa library staff.....	173
Table 26: University of Venda library staff.....	174
Table 27: Walter Sisulu University of Science and Technology library staff.....	174
Table 28: University of Zululand library staff.....	174
Table 29: Cape Peninsula University of Technology library staff.....	175
Table 30: Central University of Technology library staff.....	176
Table 31: Durban University of Technology library staff.....	176
Table 32: Tshwane University of Technology library staff.....	178
Table 33: Vaal University of Technology library staff.....	179
Table 34: University of Botswana library staff.....	179
Table 35: University of Zambia library staff.....	181
Table 36: University of Swaziland library staff.....	181
Table 37: University of Namibia library staff.....	182
Table 38: University of Malawi library staff.....	182
Table 39: University of Mzuzu library staff.....	183
Table 40: North – West University library staff.....	183
Table 41: University of Limpopo library staff.....	184
Table 42: Sokoine National Agricultural library staff.....	185
Table 43: Copperbelt University library staff.....	185
Table 44: University of Kwa Zulu Natal library staff.....	186
Table 45: Mangosuthu Technikon library staff.....	188
Table 46: University of Lesotho library staff.....	188
Table 47: University of Zimbabwe library staff.....	189

**A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND
OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006**

Table 48: Zimbabwe Open University library staff.....190

Table 49: Midlands State University library staff.....190

xi

Table 50: University of Khartoum library staff.....191

Table 51: Alemaya University of Agriculture library staff..... 191

Table 53: University of Free State library staff.....192

Table 54: Open University of Tanzania library staff.....192

Table 55: Egerton University library staff.....193

Table 56: Kenyatta University library staff.....193

Table 58: Somalia National University library staff.....193

Grace C. Sitienei

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig: 1 Map of Africa Showing the countries that constituted the study area.....43
Fig: 2 Distribution of publication by geographical region.....56
Fig: 3 Distribution of publications by country.....57
Fig: 4 Trend Publication by region.....70
Fig: 5 Distribution of Publications by type of documents.....75
Fig: 6 Nature of collaboration among academic librarians.....76

**A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND
OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006**

Grace C. Sitienei

LIST OF ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

CD-ROM	Compact Disc Read Only Memory
C&RL	College & Research Librarianship
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
HRSC	Human Science Research Council
JAL	Journal of Academic Librarianship
LIS	Library and Information Science
LISTA	Library and Information Science Technology Abstract
MRC	Medical Research Council
OPAC	Online Public Access Catalogue
OUT	Open University of Tanzania
RP	Relative performance
SCI	Science Citation Index
SSCI	Social Sciences Citation Index
SDI	Selective Dissemination of Information
SABINET	Southern Africa Bibliographic Network
UNESCO	United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
USSR	Union of Socialist Soviet Republics
WORLDCAT	World Catalogue Database

A COMPARISON OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION PATTERNS AND OUTPUT AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA BETWEEN 1990 TO 2006

ABSTRACT

Different categories of people who may be scholars, lectures, students, retirees, housewives, politicians, administrators etc. use the library to access the information they require to pass exams, make decisions or read for leisure. Academic libraries are most important to all scholars and students who pass through a university. For these libraries to continue striving and provide effective services, research is required to improve on areas that are not viable to users. The professional academic librarian is mandated to provide guidance on how these services can be improved in order to make the library useful to all. This cannot be possible if the academic librarians only concentrate on shelving, acquisition, classification, cataloguing, charging and discharging and processing of information materials. The role of academic librarians has continued and will continue to change as time goes on. Many academic librarians provide research assistance to their users and other vital services to facilitate the completion of their client's research. However, it is significant to note that academic librarians must engage in research and publish, in order to improve services and attract more users to the library. Payne and Payne (2004: 9) highlights that there are two main reasons why people carry out research. One among others is because there is an intellectual challenge and the urge to fill a gap in our knowledge, or believe that current accepted theories should be tested. A second reason is that we want to change the world.

Academic librarians need to be provided with incentives such as funding, promotions, and time out in order to entice them to carry out research. This study was carried out with an idea that academic librarians should carry out research and publish, for development and for the improvement of library services. Academic librarians holding a bachelors degree and above, who were working in public universities in Eastern and Southern Africa were targeted for the study. The purpose of this research was to compare the research and publication patterns of academic librarians working in Eastern and Southern Africa from 1990 to 2006. Six objectives were formulated in order to achieve this purpose.

Grace C. Sitienei

xv

The research was purely carried out online, 866 academic librarians names were retrieved from a total of 47 Public university libraries WebPages, via the universities websites. These names were used as access points to retrieve data from the two online databases (i.e. LISTA and WORLDCAT).

Bibliometrics was used as research method, Microsoft Excel software was also employed for the purpose of data analysis and presentation of the collected data. Findings indicated that Southern Africa was the most prolific region with 194 (74.00%) of the publications emanating from there. South Africa was the most productive country in Southern Africa with 111(42.21%) publications. Tanzania was the most productive country in Eastern Africa with 31 (11.41%). Muswazi and Pienaar were the most prolific academic librarians with 11(3.97%) publications each. Most productive academic library was from Southern Africa, which was Botswana with 31 (11.41%) publications. Majority of the academic librarians from both regions contributed to one publication. The study was concluded with the following observation being made: Overall South Africa emerged the most prolific country in both regions; majority of the countries from both regions were not consistent in their publication production; there was a continuous rises and drops in research publication from 1990 to 2006; and academic librarians preferred publishing articles than any other publications, many academic librarians did not engage in research and academic librarians, from the two regions prefer publishing individually. The study further recommended several studies that needed to be carried out in Africa and other parts of the world in order to fill and clarify gaps that emanated from the study.

xvi