

Fostering a Sustainable Future through Impactful Research by the Libraries: A Bibliometric Analysis based on Google Scholar

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The global discourse on sustainability has intensified, and libraries play an important role in promoting sustainable futures through impactful research. Therefore, the objective of this study was to use bibliometric analysis (BA) of the related publications available in Google Scholar (GS) to explore the vital role of libraries. The method adopted was extracting the relevant publications from GS using Publish or Perish software (PPS) without time limits on publications. The research strategy used was entering the keywords “library*”, “sustainable future”, and “impactful research” combined by the Boolean Operator “AND” into the PPS to extract the data. The final extraction of the data was done on 31 July 2024, and the findings were analyzed using VOSviewer and Excel packages. A total of 198 related publications were retrieved. The analysis revealed that the first publication appeared in GS in 2000, while the latest publication was in July 2024. Among the 198 publications, journal articles represented the highest number, with 105, while books were the second highest, with 54. Between 2000 and 2012, only 3 publications were identified. Yet, a significant increase in publications was noted since 2014, and the highest number of publications per year during the period was recorded in 2023, which is 55. The analysis found 6144 citations in total and 69.13 citations per year. The average citation per year is 256, with an average of 31.03 citations per paper. The top-cited article is authored by Valerie Fournier and Chris Grey. A total of 429 authors have contributed to the publications from 59 countries. The authors from the USA contributed the highest number of publications, while the UK ranked the second. However, from Sri Lanka, there is no contribution, and this paper will become the first publication in this research domain. Out of 198 publications, 38 were single-authored, while 160 were co-authored. Among the most used terms in the title and abstract are *sustainable future*, *impactful research*, and *library*. This BA not only highlights the growing interest but also the increasing research activity on the role of libraries in fostering sustainable futures through impactful research. The growing number of publications and citations over the years underscores that libraries are pivotal in supporting and promoting sustainable and impactful research. The Sri Lankan librarians need to consider this void in the LIS literature and must attempt to fill it in the future.

Keywords: *Bibliometric Analysis, Libraries, Sustainable Future, Impactful Research*