

PREFACE

Science and Technology (S & T) research is not limited to few countries these days, rather it is becoming an increasingly international endeavor. Governments around the world acknowledge the role of science and technology in generating new jobs, economic prosperity and advantage in global competition. As huge amount of money is being spent on S & T research, there is a rising need to know and monitor the value of investment amongst the policy makers and research funding agencies. The knowledge and processing of research results regarding any scientific area are a basic input to the evaluation of the research activities. Universities and research institutes are adopting the procedures for regular monitoring of research activities. Research evaluation in the form of papers published and cited in journals has almost become mandatory. Scientists also welcome the use of metrics to measure and assess scientific performance because of the potential for clarity and objectivity.

Bibliometrics is very often being used as a tool for a critical assessment of research output. Bibliometric analysis, constructed upon publication and citation data, enables one to obtain an interesting overview of scientific research. Studies over long periods of time are especially relevant to understand the dynamics of research and to identify the emerging and declining topics of research. Thus the use of bibliometric studies is on the rise in most of the countries. It not only evaluates research productivity of individuals and institutes, but rather encompasses the countries and subject disciplines all over the world.

As no bibliometric study of PRL has been carried out till now, the researcher thought it appropriate to undertake the present study for her doctoral research. Research output of PRL is mainly available in two forms – research publications of the scientists and doctoral theses of the Ph. D. students. The researcher has studied both these forms of scholarly communication for the period 1997 to 2006. The findings of the study will help in identifying the future direction of research. The improved understanding will help in consolidating lines of research, exploring new approaches or beginning collaboration on a national or international scale. It will also reveal preferences and gaps in collection development and management of information resources.