A Self-evaluation of My Research Outputs by 1 August 2022

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(Updated on 1 August, 2022)

Abstract: To aid the admission committees in evaluating my research capacity, I compared my research outputs by the end of year two of my master's program with the in-progress PhD students in five top Library and Information Science (LIS) schools in the US. In summer 2022, there were a total of 232 PhD students in all grades listed on the websites of these five schools. Among the 233 authors, I ranked No.3 regarding the total number of publications; I ranked No. 1 regarding the number of leading-author (first or corresponding author) publications, journal publications, and leading-author journal publications; I ranked No. 7 regarding the number of citations received as the leading author, and I came to No. 2 compared only with those who started publishing no earlier than me.

Background

I'm a master's student from the School of Information Management at Nanjing University. In the 2022 summer, about to enter the third (final) academic year of my program, I'm planning to apply to a PhD program in the United States and start to prepare for the materials. To provide some assistance for the admission committees in evaluating my research performance, I compared my research outputs with those of the in-progress PhD students in the top LIS schools in the United States. Of course, nice-looking publication and citation counts are **not** equal to research excellence, but they are signals of devotion to research and potential to achieve more. Moreover, I have no intention to judge other people and their research. This document was written **for the application only**.

My publications by the end of the second master's year (August 2022)

The Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection was chosen as the data source for the comparison. By the time I collected the data, which is 1 August 2022, there were a total of 10 publications co-authored by me in the database. I'm the first author of 5 and the corresponding author of 1 publication. They have appeared in five journals and one conference. The journals are *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology (JASIST)*, *Information Processing & Management (IP&M)*, *Journal of Information Science (JIS)*, *Journal of Informetrics (JOI)*, and *Scientometrics*; the conference is *the 17th International Conference of the International-Society-for-Scientometrics-and-Informetrics (ISSI 2019)*.

Manzari (2013) conducted a survey in North America on the prestige of Library and Information Science (LIS) scholarly journals. This study provided a ranking of 89 journals in LIS. Regarding the average rating by the respondents, *JASIST* ranked No. 1 among all; regarding the mode rating, *JASIST*, *IP&M*, and three other journals shared the No. 1 place. The *JIS* ranked No. 16 in the average rating. The rest two, *JOI* and *Scientometrics*, are the top journals of subfields informetrics and scientometrics. They were both in Q1 under SSCI category Information Science & Library Science when we made the submissions. The *ISSI* conference is the top conference of informetrics and scientometrics. In 2019, it was held in Rome, and I attended it in person, sponsored by my department.

So far, I've received 16 citations from the WoS Core Collection. Among them, 15 came to my first-author papers. My most highly-cited paper is the one in *JOI* entitled "An investigation of the relationship between scientists' mobility to/from China and their research performance." It was published in May 2020 and has received 10 citations up to this August. My paper published in *IP&M* won the *IP&M* 2021 Master Paper Award which is awarded to only one master's student globally each year.

School selection and data collection

I selected the top five LIS schools based on the ranking of "Best Library and Information Studies Programs" by U.S. News & World Report. These include School of Information Science at UIUC, School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill, Information School at UW,

College of Information Studies at UMD-College Park, and School of Information at UT-Austin. I obtained the name lists of all PhD students on their official websites. After manually checking the written form of the 232 names, I joined their names with their schools' addresses to form search terms. The initial five search terms are as follows:

#1 AD=((Univ Illinois) SAME ((sch informat) or (sch lib* NOT sch liberal) or isch)) AND AU=(...)

#2 AD=(((Univ North Carolina) or UNC or (Univ N Carolina)) same (sch informat or (sch lib* not sch liberal) or (Dept Lib & Informat Sci) or isch)) AND AU=(...)

#3 AD=((Univ Washington) same ((informat sch) or isch)) AND AU=(...)

#4 AD=((Univ Maryland) same ((informat studies) or isch)) AND AU=(...)

#5 AD=((Univ Texas Austin) same ((sch informat) or isch)) AND AU=(...)

To avoid leaving out the publications whose addresses only included universities' names, I added the five searches as a supplement and manually checked every record that they hit:

#6 AD=(Univ Illinois, Champaign) AND AU =(...)

#7 AD=((Univ North Carolina, Chapel Hill) or UNC, Chapel Hill or (Univ N Carolina, Chapel Hill)) AND AU=(...)

#8 AD=(Univ Washington, Seattle) AND AU=(...)

#9 AD=(Univ Maryland, College Pk) AND AU=(...)

#10 AD=(Univ Texas Austin, Austin) AND AU=(...)

For PhD students (later referred to as "authors") with large numbers of publications, I also searched their names separately to avoid missing any records. After excluding editorial materials, book reviews, and letters, I obtained a total of 316 publications and downloaded their bibliographic records. With co-authored papers counted separately, each author had 1.5 paper on average. Research data are available on my webpage https://chaojack.github.io.

Results

I ranked No. 3 regarding the total number of publications, including journal articles, reviews, and proceeding papers, regardless of author position. The top five authors (with ties) were:

Yuan Li from UNC (13 publications)

Alisha Pradhan from UMD (11 publications)

Me (10 publications)

Nilavra Bhattacharya from UW (9 publications)

Caroline Pitt from UW (9 publications, tie)

Lanyu Shang from UIUC (9 publications, tie)

I ranked No. 1 regarding the number of leading-author (first or corresponding author) publications. The top five authors (with ties) were:

Me (6 publications)

Erin Beneteau from UW (6 publications, tie)

Nilavra Bhattacharya from UT (6 publications, tie)

Bogeum Choi from UNC (4 publications)

Xin Qian from UMD (4 publications, tie)

Lanyu Shang from UIUC (4 publications, tie)

Kelsey Urgo from UNC (4 publications, tie)

Austin Ward from UNC (4 publications, tie)

I ranked No. 1 regarding the number of journal publications, regardless of author position. The top five authors (with ties) were:

Me (8 articles)

Lanyu Shang from UIUC (7 articles)

Yalin Sun from UT (4 articles and 2 reviews)

Chongyan Chen from UT (4 articles)

Yuan Li from UNC (4 articles, tie)

Wenyuan Wang (4 articles, tie)

I ranked No. 1 regarding the number of leading-author journal publications. The top five authors (with ties) were:

Me (5 articles)

Lanyu Shang from UIUC (3 articles)

Erin Beneteau from UW (2 articles, tie)

Ruohua Han from UIUC (2 articles, tie)

Lo Lee from UIUC (2 articles, tie)

Yalin Sun from UT (2 reviews, tie)

Kelsey Urgo from UNC (2 articles, tie)

I ranked No. 7 regarding the citation counts received as the leading author, and I came to No. 2 compared only with those who started publishing no earlier than me. The top seven authors were:

Alisha Pradhan from UMD (124 citations)

Yalin Sun from UT (103 citations)

Erin Beneteau from UW (55 citations)

Nilavra Bhattacharya from UT (47 citations)

Zening Qu from UW (42 citations)

Victoria Chang from UMD (37 citations)

Me (15 citations)

Among those who ranked higher than me, all except Erin Beneteau already had leading-author publication(s) before 2019, the year I had my first leading-author publication. From other information sources, I learned that Dr. Beneteau has graduated this summer and is heading for the next career stage. May she have a fruitful academic career.

Reference

Manzari, L. (2013). Library and information science journal prestige as assessed by library and information science faculty. *The Library Quarterly*, 83(1), 42–60.