Classics in Library and Information Science Series :

Research Methods in Librarianship : Techniques and Interpretation.

Satya K. Savanur

Research Methods in Librarianship :
Techniques and Interpretation.
New York : Academic Press, 1980.
DOI : 10.32344/jld/v11/i2/2025/91-93

Charles Busha and Stephen Harter's work on Research Methods, is a significant, work. It was published at the time when Library and Information Science (LIS) was getting flooded with literature based on Scientometrics related methods. (Bibliometrics, Citometrics,). It is written treating librarianship as one of the social sciences.

True, as indicated above, librarianship is more a social science than any other discipline. Libraries are social organizations, and people get information services from libraries. Publishing industry, education, medical science, research of all types depend on libraries. Thus, librarianship -call it by any name- is at the backend of every social, political, economic, science and technological activities. Research in humanities and its branches also depends on libraries.

In addition, librarians must understand their users' information needs and technical language spoken by them. Librarians should anticipate users' needs and meet them to provide relevant high quality information. In view of the above librarians must know research methods to be more effective information providers.



Busha and Harters' book has fifteen cohesively written and well-defined chapters grouped into five parts. The parts and chapters are presented logically to provide an overview of the content.

PART I : SCIENCE AND LIBRARIANSHIP

1. Research and scientific method

PART II : METHODS OF RESEARCH

2. Experimental research in librarianship : introduction to experimentation
3. Survey research in librarianship
4. Historical research in librarianship
5. Operations research in librarianship: quantitative approaches to the analysis of management problems
6. Additional research methods in librarianship

PART III: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

7. Measurement and statistical methods : an introduction
8. Graphical representation of data
9. Central tendency and variability
10. The normal distribution

PART IV : INFERENTIAL STATISTICS

11. Linear regression and correlation
12. Statistical significance and hypothesis tes researchers ting

PART V: AIDS TO RESEARCH

13. The computer and calculator as aids to research
14. Writing the research proposal
15. Writing the research report



Due importance is given to operations research, statistical methods (i.e. Quantitative methods), computer applications. Besides, it covers Delphi Method, content analysis etc.

The narration is well punctuated with illustrations, graphs, references, annexures with statistical tables etc. The examples used to explain are from library practices and procedures.The book is useful for students, teachers, practitioners and researchers.Reading this book will make the librarians understand their users' needs.

Although this book is written for librarians, researchers from any other discipline also may find it useful.

Satya K. Savanur