

## Acknowledgement Patterns: A Bibliometrics Study on International Journal of Information Management

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**Abstract** The purpose of this article is to analyze the acknowledgements appears in the research articles of International Journal of Information Management covering period 2003-2013. In the present study period 123 articles out of 538 (22.86%) articles contained acknowledgements. The acknowledgements appearing in this journal are further analyses in order to find out number of acknowledgements per paper, frequency of occurrence, types, and highly acknowledged individuals. The results show that the Peer Interactive Communication (PIC) acknowledgements are highest (28.28%) which is followed by Financial Support with (22.36%) Clerical support acknowledgements are lowest with (1.31%).

**Keywords** *International Journal of Information Management; Acknowledgement Patterns; Bibliometrics Study*

### 1. Introduction

Bibliometrics is recent and most active field of “Library and Information science. The word bibliometrics appeared in print in Alan pitchards article statistical bibliography or bibliometrics. (Khaparde, 2011). Bibliometrics has been known by other names, including “Statistical analysis of the literature” while Hulme used the term “Statistical bibliography” in 1923. (Khaparde, 2013). Acknowledging the assistance and contributions of others is now a well-established feature of the scholarly communication process. Acknowledgement sections are now common place in academic books and research articles and appear to be almost universal in dissertations, where they offer students a unique rhetorical space to both convey their genuine gratitude for assistance and to promote a capable academic and social identity (Hyland, 2004).

Acknowledgments in scientific publications are a common element in the scientific community, having a social function and cognitive significance (Tiew & Sen, 2002). Acknowledgments find their origin in the gratitude expressed to patrons, mentors, and powerful benefactors in cover letters accompanying scientific article by (Hyland, 2004).

Classified Acknowledgements according to B. Cronin's (1995) and C.L. Giles & I.G. Council's (2004) typology.

**a) Access Support**

It provides access to data, infrastructure facilities, etc.

**b) Moral Support**

It is a way of giving support to a person or cause, or to one side in a conflict, without making any contribution beyond the emotional or psychological value.

**c) Financial Support**

It is the act of providing resources, usually in form of money.

**d) Technical Support**

It provides help in the use of tools, technologies, furnishing technical expertise sample preparation, etc.

**e) Peer Interactive Communication (PIC) Support**

It deals with the advice and discussion, critical insight, intellectual guidance, valuable suggestions, assessment on the study, etc.

**f) Clerical Support**

The Secretarial services, helps in data collection/entry/management, etc.

**g) Editorial/Linguistic Support**

Editing, proof-reading, and translating the manuscript.

**h) Unclassifiable**

When it is impossible to categories an acknowledgement according to any of the above categories due to inherent ambiguity, vagueness or lack of contextual clues, the acknowledgement is classified under this category.

### 1.1. Definition

#### Acknowledgement

“Acknowledgement is a way of giving credit or props. *Acknowledgments* let you know who contributed or did work on something” (vocabulary.com).

“Acknowledgements allow researchers to reflect their gratitude for any kind of help received from others during the writing of articles” (Rattan, 2014).

## Bibliometrics

Bibliometrics is a set of methods to quantitatively analyze scientific and technological literature. (Wikipedia.org)

Bibliometrics is described essentially a quantitative analysis of publications for the purpose of ascertaining specific kinds of phenomena (Khaparde, 2011).

### ***The International Journal of Information Management (IJIM)***

The *International Journal of Information Management* (IJIM) is an international, peer-reviewed journal which aims to bring its readers the very best analysis and discussion in the developing field of information management.

### **The Journal**

- Keeps the reader briefed with major papers, reports and reviews.
- Is topical: Viewpoint articles and other regular features including Research Notes, Case Studies and a Reviews section help keep the reader up to date with current issues.
- Focuses on high quality papers that address contemporary issues for all those involved in information management and which make a contribution to advancing information management theory and practice. (elsevier.com)

## 1.2. Review of Literature

Mackintosh in 1972 in an unpublished dissertation examined acknowledgements pattern in sociology. A three-tier classification scheme was developed for the study, viz., facilities, access to data and help of individuals to study acknowledgements in the American Sociological Review. He concluded that the lack of interest in acknowledgements does not necessarily indicate their irrelevance and also that the lack of interest of Bibliometrician in acknowledgement does not indicate their irrelevance (Rattan, G.K., 2014).

Cronin in 1991 explored the social functions and the cognitive significance of acknowledgements figured in Journal of the American Society for Information Science (JASIS) for the years 1970-1990. A six-category typology was developed by Cronin namely;

- a. Trusted assessor
- b. Moral support
- c. Technical support
- d. Dogs body
- e. Paymasters
- f. Prime mover

Again Cronin in 1995 carried study on acknowledgements in information science, psychology, history, philosophy and sociology (Rattan, 2013).

## 2. Scope

The Cronin-McKenzie-Rubio typology has been used in the present study attempts to examine the acknowledgements including 445 research papers in *International Journal of Information Management* (IJIM) during 2003-2013, 22.86% i.e. 123 articles out of 538 articles contain acknowledgement of some kind.

## Objectives

The purpose of the present study is to examine the generic structure of the acknowledgements in IJIM journal in order to find out frequency of their occurrence, types, number of acknowledgements per paper, highly acknowledged individuals.

## 3. Methodology

These acknowledgements of all the research articles published in the journal between 2003-2013 were examined to locate the acknowledgements and then were examined, classified and analyzed from various angles and results were tabulated.

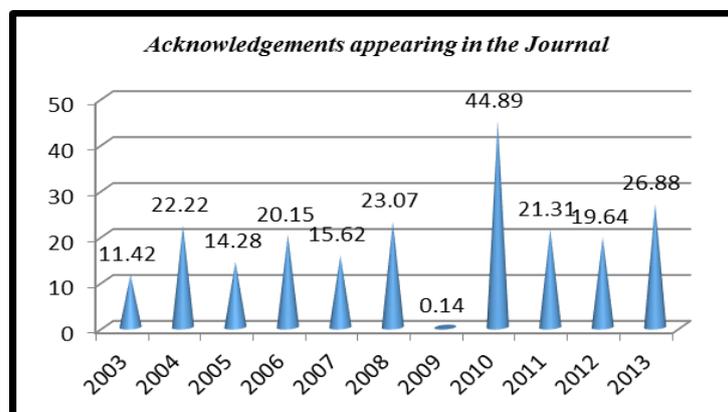
### 3.1. Data Analysis

Analysis of data is a process of inspecting, cleaning, transforming, and modeling data with the goal of discovering useful information, suggesting conclusions, and supporting decision making. (wikipedia.org)

## 4. Results and Discussions

*Table 1: Acknowledgements Appearing in the Journal*

Year	Number of Articles	Number of Articles with Acknowledgements	Percentage
2003	35	4	11.42
2004	36	8	22.22
2005	35	5	14.28
2006	39	8	20.15
2007	32	5	15.62
2008	52	12	23.07
2009	50	7	0.14
2010	49	25	44.89
2011	61	13	21.31
2012	56	11	19.64
2013	93	25	26.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>22.86</b>

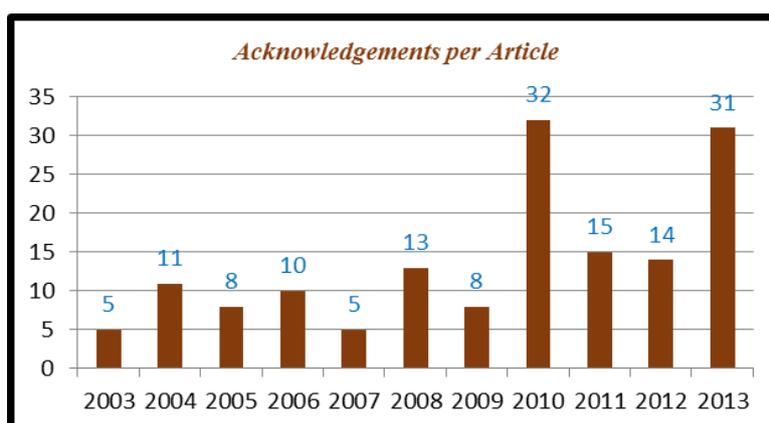


*Figure 1: Shows Acknowledgements Appearing in the Journal*

Table 1 depicts that the practice of acknowledgements in research articles is not so common in this journal. Only 123 articles (22.86%) out of 538 articles contain acknowledgements. The maximum number of articles 25 (44.89%) contains acknowledgements in the year 2010 and minimum number of articles 4 (11.42) in the year 2003.

**Table 2:** Frequency Distribution of Acknowledgements

Year	Number of Articles with Acknowledgements	Number of Acknowledgements in Articles	Mean
2003	4	5	1.25
2004	8	11	1.37
2005	5	8	1.6
2006	8	10	1.25
2007	5	5	1
2008	12	13	1.08
2009	7	8	1.14
2010	25	32	1.28
2011	13	15	1.15
2012	11	14	1.27
2013	25	31	1.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1.22</b>



**Figure 2:** Shows Frequency Distribution of Acknowledgements

Table 2 reports the frequency distribution of acknowledgements. The highest number of acknowledgements per article 32 (1.28%) is found in 2010 and the lowest in 2003 (1.25%). On an average, each article contained 1.22% acknowledgements.

**Table 3:** Categories of Acknowledgements

Year	AS	MS	FS	CS	TS	PIC	ES	US	Total
2003	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	5
2004	4	1	2	-	-	4	-	-	11
2005	-	1	2	-	3	2	-	-	8
2006	2	-	4	-	1	2	-	1	10
2007	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	5
2008	3	2	5	-	1	1	1	-	13
2009	3	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	8
2010	5	2	7	2	1	12	-	3	32
2011	3	2	2	-	2	2	3	1	15

2012	3	5	-	-	4	2	-	14
2013	-	1	3	-	-	9	-	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>
	16.44%	5.92%	22.36%	1.31%	5.92%	28.28%	3.94%	15.78%

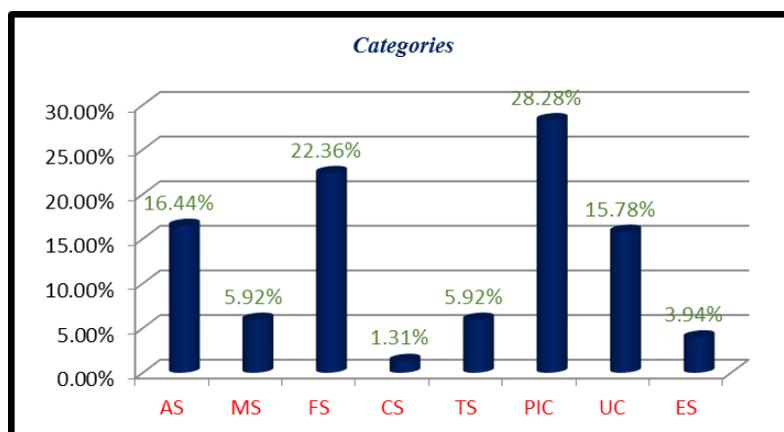
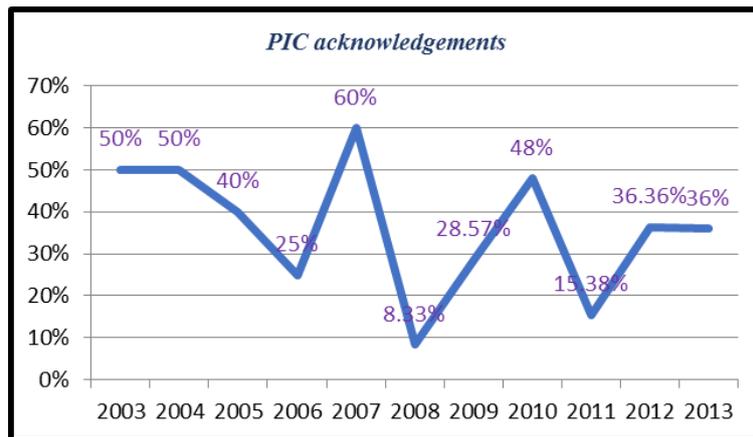


Figure 3: Shows Categories of Acknowledgements

Table 3 reveals the acknowledgements of the journal under study by categories. The distribution is done on the basis of number of categories in one article. The results shows that the largest number of acknowledgements are in the Peer Interactive Communication (PIC) category w followed by financial support category 34 (22.36%), access support 25 (16.44%). About 25 (15.78%) of the acknowledgements could not be classified under the categories mentioned due to inherent ambiguity, vagueness or lack of contextual clues.

Table 4: Peer Interactive Communication Acknowledgements

Year	No. of Articles with Acknowledgements	Peer Interactive Communication	%
2003	4	2	50%
2004	8	4	50%
2005	5	2	40%
2006	8	2	25%
2007	5	3	60%
2008	12	1	8.33%
2009	7	2	28.57%
2010	25	12	48%
2011	13	2	15.38%
2012	11	4	36.36%
2013	25	9	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34.95%</b>



**Figure 4:** Shows Peer Interactive Communication Acknowledgements

Table 4 shows the distribution of PIC acknowledgements. The highest number of PIC acknowledgements 12(48%) is seen in 2010 while the lowest number 1(8.33%) in 2008, and the mean is 34.95%.

**Table 5:** No. of Acknowledgements per Individual

No. of Times Acknowledged	No. of Individuals
1	86
2	-
3	1

Table 5 reveals the number of acknowledgements per individual. Out of 87 Individuals acknowledged, only one has been mentioned three times while the rest have been acknowledged once.

**Table 6:** List of Individuals Acknowledged

Sr. No.	Name	Acknowledgement Score
1	Dr. Sian, Hin Thompson Teo	3
2	Amrit Tiwana	1
3	Eric Verbeek	1
4	Ivan Aaen	1
5	Jane Fedorowicz	1
6	Melissa Rogers	1
7	Ms. Emma Challans	1
8	Ms. Jan Ellen	1
9	Myoungsun Namkung	1
10	Prof. Paul Jeffrey	1
11	Rok Skrinjar	1
12	Vincent Ferrari	1
13	Amy Ray	1
14	Andre Bell	1
15	Angela Wang	1
16	Anne Bowtell	1
17	Anol Bhattacharjee	1
18	Anusha Ranganathan	1
19	Ard Huizing	1
20	Ben O'Steen	1
21	Bev Earle	1
22	Bill Buchholz	1

23	Bova	1
24	Cecilia Haskins	1
25	Cecilia Loureiro-Koechlin	1
26	Charo Narvaez	1
27	Dick van Gorkum	1
28	Don Chand	1
29	Donald Zack	1
30	Dr. Andreas Persidis	1
31	Dr. Andrej Kovacic	1
32	Dr. Navonil Mustafee	1
33	Dr. Neil McBride	1
34	Dr. Philip Hills	1
35	Dr.Chung Li	1
36	Dr. Richard Marchese Robinson	1
37	Dr. Tong Cheng Kui, Huang	1
38	Drs. Steven G	1
39	Elke U. Webe	1
40	Eric J. Johnson	1
41	G. Premkumar	1
42	Gary David	1
43	Harm Hoebergen	1
44	Heikki Topi	1
45	Jan Horsky	1
46	Janak Parekh	1
47	Janet Mendelsohn	1
48	Jason Dunn	1
49	Jek Swan Tan	1
50	Jian Wang	1
51	Jiapeng He	1
52	Jie Wei	1
53	Jinbi Yang	1
54	Kees van Hee	1
55	Lucille Ponte	1
56	Man Wang	1
57	Mark Carlson	1
58	Mary Ann Robbert	1
59	Mary Culnan	1
60	Mary Ochs	1
61	Mary Reiser	1
62	Min Bang	1
69	Monica Garfield	1
64	Monica Messaggi Kaya	1
65	Mr. Munnesh Patel	1
66	Ms. Debra Canning	1
67	Ms. Leokadia Glogowski	1
68	Neil Jefferies	1
69	Olivia Vent	1
70	Oscar Ommert	1
71	Peter Axel Nielsen	1
72	Philip J. Hills	1
73	Prof. Aldo Romano	1
74	Prof. Guy Fitzgerald	1
75	Prof. Trevor Wood Harper	1
76	Prof. Philip J.Hills	1
77	Prof. Raymond Hackney	1
78	Professor Sandeep Krisnamurthy	1

79	Rene Theunissen	1
80	Robert Herdt	1
81	Rochelle Degens	1
82	Simon Singh	1
83	Steve Lichtenstein	1
84	Sue Newell	1
85	t Veld	1
86	Tjitske Kamphuis	1
87	Traci Logan	1

List of individuals acknowledged in PIC category is shown in Table 6. One individual from this category, Dr. Sian, Hin Thompson Teo has been acknowledged three times while the rest have been acknowledged once.

## 5. Findings and Conclusion

The practice of acknowledgements in IJIM research communication is not as common as only 22.86% of research articles contain acknowledgements. The average acknowledgement per communication is 1.22 the most common category of acknowledgement found is PIC category i.e. 43(28.28%) number of acknowledgements. The mean percentage of the PIC acknowledgements is 34.95%.

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