
Best Reference Sources For Doctoral, Master's Dissertation And Thesis In Library And Information Science

¹Dr. Kshama tripathi

¹Associate Professor, Dayanand Girls' P. G. College Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Received: 10 Jan 2022, Accepted: 20 Jan 2022, Published with Peer Reviewed on line: 31 Jan 2022

Abstract

In the dynamic landscape of Library Science, where information serves as the backbone of society's knowledge ecosystem, the pursuit of scholarly excellence through careful research is essential. When conducting research in a library, you have access to a wide range of reference sources that can provide valuable information across various disciplines. Reference sources available in libraries in physical form are encyclopaedia, dictionary, atlas, maps, journals, periodicals etc. In the library, reference sources are not circulated or issued. Researchers can use them only in libraries. But reference sources in digital form or online can easily be accessed through the internet. Researchers can also purchase them. In this paper, we discuss the best reference sources and services that researchers often use during the research.

Keywords:- Reference sources, thesis and dissertation, library science, research, digital library, repository, article, ebook, library database, journals, government reports, conference and proceedings, C.A.S.

Introduction

Academic success depends on research and publication, these words said by **PHILIP ZIMBADO**. So we can say that research is essential for academic growth and reference sources play a vital role in research. A well-crafted thesis or dissertation in Library and Information Science requires thorough research, and the use of reliable and authoritative reference sources is paramount. For best thesis and dissertation, researchers need the best reference sources that will help him in raising the standard and quality of research. In the library, researchers can find the best research through librarians. A librarian suggests and provides reference sources to researchers according to their needs. As the digital age continues to redefine the landscape of information access, databases such as JSTOR, ProQuest and EBSCOhost emerge as virtual treasure troves, housing a wealth of peer-reviewed journals, articles, and conference proceedings. These repositories not only facilitate access to progressive research but also enable scholars to engage with the scholarly recitation shaping the future of Library Science.

Literature Reviews:- ALA defines that a book designed by its arrangement and treatment to be consulted for definite items for information rather than to be read consecutively. C.M. Winchell suggested those which are meant to be consulted or referred to for some definite piece of information and are usually comprehensive in scope, condensed in treatment and arranged in some special plan to facilitate the ready and accurate finding of information. Louis Shores explained that reference books are distinguished from other books because they are meant to be referred to for specific information. Robert Murphy: Publications other than books that have reference value. This category includes the many fact finding pamphlets published by societies and associations, government agencies and commercial firms. Such publications are often hard to locate, they are seldom indexed in the various

guides to books and periodicals. But they are usually well-written, up-to-date and most important, often based on primary information and thus authoritative. Kumar (2003) said that it helps to bring contact between a researcher and the right document, thereby saving the time of the user. According to Elmer E. Ramuson and Biosciences Libraries (2009), reference 14 sources such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, almanacs, atlases etc. are research tools that can help in writing a paper and project.

Methodology:- The study is to find out the best reference sources for doctoral, master's thesis and dissertation in the field of library and information science. For databases and analysis I used different websites and a book.

Thesis And Dissertation: A thesis and a dissertation are both academic research documents, but they are typically associated with different levels of academic study and may have some differences in format and purpose.

- **Thesis:** A thesis is usually associated with a master's degree program. It represents the highest point of a student's research and academic search at the master's level. The purpose of a thesis is to demonstrate the student's ability to conduct independent research, contribute to the existing body of knowledge in their field, and present their findings in a scholarly manner. It is generally shorter in length compared to dissertations.
- **Dissertation:** A dissertation is typically associated with a doctoral degree, such as a Ph.D. It is a more extensive and in-depth piece of original research compared to a thesis. A dissertation is expected to make a significant and original contribution to the field of study. The process of completing a dissertation often involves a more extended period of research and writing compared to a thesis.

Best Reference Sources For Researchers: - When conducting research for a master's dissertation or thesis in Library and Information Science, it's essential to consult a variety of high-quality reference sources. Here are some recommended reference sources that can serve as valuable starting points for literature review and research:

1. Primary Sources: Primary sources are original, firsthand materials or documents that provide direct evidence or information about a particular topic, event, or time period.

- Original documents, data, or facts that have not been interpreted or summarized by others.
- Examples include diaries, letters, government records and raw experimental data.

2. Library Databases:

A library database is a structured and organized collection of digital information, including books, articles, and other resources, accessible through a library's computer system. It allows users to search, retrieve, and access a wide range of materials, providing a convenient and efficient way to explore and utilize library holdings. Library databases often include features such as search functions, cataloguing details, and links to full-text content, enhancing the research and information retrieval process for library users.

- **Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA):**
This database covers various aspects of library and information science.
- **Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA):**
Another comprehensive database covering the literature of library and information science.

3. Digital Libraries and Repositories:

Digital libraries and repositories are online platforms that store, organize, and provide access to digital collections of various types of information, such as documents, images, videos, and datasets. They play a crucial role in academic research, providing scholars, students, and the public with easy and remote access to a wealth of resources.

- **Google Scholar:**

Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, thesis, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites. Google Scholar helps you find relevant work across the world of scholarly research.

- **ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global:**

This database provides access to a vast collection of dissertations and theses, including those in Library and Information Science.

- **Networked Digital Library of Thesis and Dissertations (NDLTD):**

NDLTD is an international organization that promotes the adoption, creation, use, dissemination, and preservation of electronic theses and dissertations.

4. Books and E-books:

A handwritten or printed work of fiction or nonfiction, usually on sheets of paper fastened bounded together within cover. Reference books are dictionary, Encyclopaedia, Yearbook, Atlas and Gazetteers, Bibliographies etc. E-books are increasingly occupying a large portion of any discussion that involves publishing or publishers.

- **WorldCat:**

This global catalogue allows you to search the collections of libraries in your community and around the world. WorldCat is the manifestation of the creativity and innovation of the staff of OCLC and thousands of librarians. WorldCat makes library collections findable and accessible around the world.

- **Google Books:**

An extensive collection of books and ebooks. While not all content is available for free, it can still be a valuable resource for finding relevant literature.

5. Journals and E-journals:

A journal is a written or electronic record of personal thoughts, experiences, or observations, often kept on a regular basis. It serves as a tool for reflection, self-expression, and documentation of events or ideas. Journals focus on a specific discipline or field of study. They provide up-to-date articles, essays, book reviews and other material relating specifically to the specific subject matter of a specific branch of knowledge.

- **Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology (JASIST):** Publishes research articles in the field of information science.

- **The Library Quarterly:** A leading journal in library and information science.

- **Journal of Information Science:** Covers various aspects of information science and technology.

6. Professional Associations and Organizations:

These organizations typically offer members networking opportunities, resources, and support. They may also play a role in setting industry standards, providing education and training. Joining such associations allows professionals to stay updated on industry trends, connect with peers, and access valuable resources to enhance their careers.

- **American Library Association (ALA):** Publications and resources of A.L.A.
- **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA):** Explore their publications and guidelines of IFLA. Here we can find the best reference sources that we require.

7. Government Reports and White Papers:

A government report is an official document produced by a government agency, providing information, analysis, and recommendations on a specific issue, policy, or program. It serves to inform policymakers and the public.

- **ERIC (Education Resources Information Centre):**

A database that provides access to education literature, including reports related to library and information science. Sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education, it is an essential tool for education researchers of all kinds.

- **ICSSR(Indian council of Social Science research):**

ICSSR provides publication and reports of research projects presented in seminars /symposia/workshops.

8. Repositories:

a repository is a centralized location or storage space where data, information, or resources are systematically organized, stored, and managed. It serves as a digital or physical collection that provides easy access, version control, and preservation of content for various purposes, such as academic research, software development, or archival storage.

- Explore specialized repositories that focus on specific areas of interest within library and information science.
- Dspace, Eprint and Drupal are some repositories used in the field of library and information science.

9. Conference Proceedings:

Look for proceedings from relevant conferences in required field. Conference papers often provide the latest research findings.

10. Article Review:

Articles that summarize and analyze the existing literature on a particular topic.

- These can be useful for getting an overview of a field or understanding the current state of research.
- For example, Science Direct, the world's leading scientific, technical and medical information resource celebrated its billionth article download in November 06 since, launched in 1999.

11.Reference Services:

Beyond the reference sources which are mentioned above in this paper, some services are also provided by librarians in libraries that satisfy researcher needs. These services help researchers to find reference sources. Some of these services are mentioned below:-

- **Current Awareness Services:**

When primary publications have a delay. However, the urgent need for current information has to be satisfied. When a researcher has a short range reference query, C.A.S. is the best source for the researcher.

- **Short Communication:**

These communications give a fairly detailed account of experimental methods and results, to allow researchers to verify the information, but only a very brief introduction and discussion to place the work in scientific context.

- **Alerting Services:**

These can broadly be categorised into two services-

Group Alert Service- Information provided to a specific group of individuals. These can be categorised into Multidisciplinary service and discipline based services. **Individual Alert Service-** These services are aimed at providing specific information to an individual's exact requirement in an expeditious manner. Selective Dissemination of Information (S.D.I.) is the best example of this service.

Conclusion :- A master's dissertation or thesis in Library and Information Science demands a thorough exploration of diverse reference sources. By leveraging library databases, digital repositories, books, journals, professional associations, government reports, repositories, and conference proceedings, we can construct a powerful literature review that forms the foundation of research. It is essential to critically evaluate each source for reliability, relevance, and currency, ensuring that researcher's work contributes meaningfully to the evolving landscape of LIS. Additionally, consultation with academic advisors and librarians can provide personalized guidance tailored to the specific focus of your dissertation or thesis.

In terms of structure, both theses and dissertations typically include components such as an introduction, literature review, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion. The specific requirements can vary depending on the academic institution and the field of study.

References:-

- [Http://help.oclc.org/Discovery and Reference/WorldCat-org](http://help.oclc.org/Discovery_and_Reference/WorldCat-org)
- <https://scholar.google.co.in>
- <https://www.ebsco.com>
- <https://www.dictionary.com/browser/book>
- <https://www.scribd.com/document/351775411/Reference-Sources-and-Services>
- Kumar, P.S.G.(2004). Information Sources & Service: theory and practice. Delhi: B.R. Publishing co.
- Ankuya, B.J.(2015). Electronic media and library information technology. New Delhi: Discovery pub. House Pvt. Ltd.