

Subject trends of research in the library and information sciences: citation analysis of ARIST articles (2002-2006)

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Abstract: The aim of the present study is to identify subject trends of research in the field of library and information science so that one can have a general image of subject evolution trends in the research of this field. A subject analysis of the references of the articles published in the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology (ARIST) between 2002 and 2006 was conducted. Of 4663 references cited in ARIST articles, about 76% were printed material and 8% were electronic material. They all were published between 1996 and 2005. The most popular subject was "information storage and retrieval", with 839 (18%) references belonging to this subject. The least popular subject was "library buildings" with only one (0.02%) reference. The subjects "library and information science" and "organization" had decreasing trend up to 2000 and then its use was increased. Subjects "career" and "library use and users" had fluctuation during the period. Technical services, bibliographical control, technology and Information Technology, Media and Records Management had upward trend in the middle of the decade, but at the end of the decade, they decreased.

Key words: Subject trend, Research, Library and information science, ARIST.