Exploring the evolution of reference services literature using Reference Publication Year Spectroscopy (RPYS)

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Abstract

Purpose: To identify major events in the development of Reference Services literature.

Methodology: Reference Publication Year Spectroscopy (RPYS) technique is used. Initial data was obtained from the Scopus by scientometrics method. A comprehensive search strategy led to the retrieval of 5007 records. RPYS software was used to revise data. Excel application was used for visualization of findings.


Originality/value: The value of the present research is for using RPYS to study historical roots of Reference Services literature. None of the few studies by bibliometric methods in the realm of Reference Services has investigated historical origins.

Keywords: reference services, Scientometrics, the historical origins of the reference services, Reference Publication Year Spectroscopy (RPYS).