


Citation Patterns of Conference Proceedings in Master's and Doctoral Studies: A Case Study of Information Technology and Systems

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SAGE Open
April-June 2018 1-7
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DOI: 10.1177/2158244018770496
journals.sagepub.com/home/iso


Abstract

This study reports on an analysis of the use of conference proceedings by postgraduate students at master's and doctoral levels in the field of information technology and systems at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) over a period of 10 years. The analysis was based on master's theses and doctoral dissertations submitted by the Department of Information Technology and deposited into the web-based institutional repository and involved analyzing the various references cited. The results of the study show that conference papers are the fourth most cited materials in theses and dissertations after journal articles, books, and online sources. The types of conferences cited relate to the subject under investigation in the theses or dissertation. The conferences proceedings cited are from various international and local conferences at which the students and lecturers from CPUT have or frequently presented. This study contributes to the knowledge on the trends and patterns of conference proceedings citations in theses and dissertations. This study also contributes to the knowledge on the use of conference proceedings by postgraduate students at master's and doctoral levels in the information systems and computer sciences. It provides an analytical framework that can be used by library managers in the collection development processes in support of postgraduate students' research information needs.

Keywords

computer science, conference proceedings, bibliometrics, citation analysis, dissertations, information science, theses, social sciences

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to analyze how master's and doctoral students in Information Systems at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) cite conference proceedings in their research. The final results of the assessment offer valuable insights into the patterns and trends of postgraduate use of conference proceedings and how this information can be used by library managers to improve their library collections in support of research activities at the university.

The presentation of research results at conferences has always been one important way of sharing and disseminating information and knowledge in some of the scientific and social science disciplines. Published online proceedings are additional sources for research information (Glänzel, Schlemmer, Schubert, & Thijs, 2006), especially in rapidly developing areas such as computer and information science. Shamir (2010, p. 1) emphasizes that "conference papers have traditionally been a quick form of research communication and an important source of information for scientists in

addition to the standard journal papers." Furthermore, Shamir (2010) points out that in some disciplines the common method of reporting scientific results is through peer-reviewed papers presented at conferences and published in conference proceedings.

Conference proceedings are however seen to be less relevant in most disciplines outside computer science and engineering (Lisee, Larivière, & Archambault, 2008). The citation of conference proceedings is one of the bibliometric indicators that many researchers include in studies on citation patterns and trends in various scientific disciplines. The impact factor of journal articles is significantly higher than that of conference papers in computer science. The importance of

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Technology For Career Information Delivery Conference Proceedings

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