

Assessing the impact of indigenous research in the library and information studies literature

Introduction – This paper presents an investigation of the impact that indigenous library and information research has had on the wider literature and scholarly outputs of the profession.

Method – A series of searches were made of the citation databases SCOPUS and Web of Science, and Google Scholar for papers on indigenous library and information issues. A cross check of the library focused journals in the information and library sciences section of the Journal Citation Reports was also conducted and to ensure that all possible items were captured, the major journals from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States of America were scanned .

Analysis – All papers retrieved in the searches were downloaded into EndNote. The records for each item were analysed for their relevance to this research, the number of citations the article had received and where it had been published. The full article was checked for items assessed as being of marginal or no interest for the research to confirm their status.

Results – The investigation demonstrated that although indigenous issues have had a higher profile within the professions in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America, this is not reflected within the library and information studies scholarly literature. The lack of this literature is particularly evident in the discipline's highest ranking publications. There is also a noticeable absence of researchers and/or authors that have indigenous affiliations, which is indicative of the low numbers of indigenous library and information studies faculty members.

Conclusion – The number of research articles that are published on indigenous library and information management issues will continue to be very low until there is an increase in indigenous researchers and faculty members with specialist skills. Existing researchers in this field wishing to increase the impact of their scholarly outputs will need to be more strategic about where they publish their research.