

# THE RAVI: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY 1998-2007

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## INTRODUCTION

The literature review shows that for about half a century now single journal bibliometric studies have been going on in the world. In this kind of study data is gathered from a single journal covering a particular period and analyzed from various angles to find out year-wise distribution of contents, authorship pattern, published pages, length of articles and subject-wise break-up of contribution. The results quite often bring out interesting facts. With the passage of time single journal bibliometric studies have proliferated in different directions. In some studies citations are analyzed to generate various indicators. Sometimes a journal as a whole is taken for bibliometric study. We can term such studies as whole journal bibliometric study. In such studies, the contents of the journal or parts thereof are analyzed from various angles. A substantial number such studies have been carried out in the developed and developing countries of the world. The examples of bibliometrics are Comparative publications over centuries and Number of journals founded over time.

### **What is bibliometrics?**

The term bibliometrics may be defined as that it is a type of research method used in library and information science also. It utilizes quantitative analysis and statistics to describe patterns of publication within a given field or body of literature. The statistical analysis of scientific literature began almost 50 years before the term "bibliometrics" was coined. In 1926, Alfred J. Lotka published his pioneering study on the frequency distribution of scientific productivity determined from a decennial index (1907- 1916) of Chemical Abstracts. Pritchard (1969) reviewed the use of the term statistical bibliography, and, being dissatisfied with it, proposed bibliometrics as a better name for the subject.

### **Why is bibliometrics important?**

The Research Quality Framework is likely to use some form of bibliometrics to measure quality.

National and international university ranking tables use bibliometrics.

For both of these reasons and for internal strategic planning purposes our universities are increasingly turning to bibliometrics to understand research performance.

What's bibliometrics got to do with us?

Bibliometrics is fundamentally, although not exclusively, a library science.

We subscribe to the main citation indexes, or will be asked to subscribe to, or provide advice about, them.

Many of us are being asked to contribute to our institution's RQF preparations.

Many of us are involved with open access initiatives that are intended to have an impact on citation rates.

## OBJECTIVES

The study has been undertaken with the purpose of finding out the different characteristics of the contributions published in the Ravi during 1998-2007 written by faculty, students, ex-editors, local and international writers. Also to analyze the growth of published material in English and Urdu languages and characteristics of the same published in the category of essays, short stories, biographical essays and poetry in English, Urdu and Punjabi languages.

The manual and electronic searching shows that no bibliometric study has been conducted so far of the RAVI. Hence, this study has been undertaken to examine the following aimed to determine:

1. Year-wise distribution of published pages in English, Urdu and Punjabi.
2. Year-wise content analysis (English).
3. Year-wise content analysis (Urdu).
4. Year-wise Content analysis (Punjabi)
5. Authorship pattern of the published material (English).
6. Authorship pattern of the published material (Urdu).
7. Pattern of pictures included during the ten years.
8. Range of prose pages of English, Urdu and Punjabi sections

## SCOPE

The present study is based on the prose and poetry published during 1998-2007 in the RAVI: a literary magazine of then Government College Lahore (1998-2001) and now GC University Lahore (2002-2007) The determination of the contributor's affiliation is based on the introductory remarks given by the editorial board and author's own knowledge based on as in-charge of the Ravi's record available in the GC University Lahore Library since its emergence.

## THE RAVI: A LITERARY MAGAZINE AS A SOURCE JOURNAL

A literary magazine is a periodical devoted to literature in a broad sense. Literary magazines usually publish short stories, poetry and essays along with literary criticism, book reviews, biographical profiles of authors, interviews and letters. In general, literary magazines function as a sort of literary alternative for writers by publishing the work of people who may not yet be established or accepted in the mainstream press.

In English "The North American Review" (1815) is the oldest American literary magazine, but it was suspended during World War II whereas the Yale Review was not, making the Yale (1819) journal the oldest literary magazine in continuous publication. The Times Literary Supplement, founded in 1902. The other renowned journals of the last-half of the 20th century were The Kenyon Review and The Partisan Review. The Review, founded by John Crowe Ransom, espoused the so-called New Criticism. Online literary magazines began to appeared in 1996.

In Urdu "Aligarh Magazine" the oldest magazine which was published by Maulana Shibli Nomani from Aligarh (India). The other prominent magazine published by any acadmic institution in Urdu language is "Oriental College Magazine Lahore (1925). A list was published titled as "Pakistan kay taleemi Idaron main shiah honaywallon magazines ki kitabiyat" was published in Monthly Kitab (1986) shows that many Pakistani universities and college publishes their magazines once a year but the frequency is irregular. Even University of the Punjab's magazine "Mehwar" is not published in the recent years. Electroniv version of the The Ravi is available on world wide web since 2006

The Government College University (GCU) magazine "Ravi" is named after the

river Ravi that flows to the North West of the city of Lahore. The flowing river is symbolic of continuity of ideas, thoughts, feelings and rich sentiments of the GCU students, alumni, and staff community all expressed through the magazine. It serves to focus attention on the literary and cultural life of the University and provides the students with a medium of self-expression. It is a necessary aid to the fostering of extra-academic life in the University. The main objective of the Ravi is to explore and bring out literary talent among the students.

Ravi was started in June 1906. In the beginning, it was published on annual basis, and was confined to records only. However this function of the Ravi was abandoned and it was raised to the status of a monthly magazine for students in 1906. It has continued to grow and flourish with grace down to the present year. Ravi has now become a permanent feature of the University, increasing in flow, force and volume. At present it is published at regular intervals in three languages: English, Urdu and Punjabi. It is regarded as a major literary magazine in the country and is redolent of the growing Ravian tradition.

Since its inception to-date 101 volumes of the Ravi have been published. Many special issues were also published on different occasions. The record shows that first special number was published in 1924 titled as "Special Jubilee No". The other numbers were Hammy No (1924), Sondi No (1936), Old Ravians (1950), Iqbal No (1974), Quaid No (1976), Hijra No (1981), Azad No (1983) Silver Jubilee No (1989), Pakistan Golden Jubilee No (1997), Ghalib No (1998) and last but not least was Ishfaq Ahmad No (2005).

HEC has also approved the Ravi as a recognized journal for the purpose of appointments of faculty in Universities and publication of P.hD results with other nine journals of Urdu published by the other universities of Pakistan.

## **METHODOLOGY**

All the contributions published during 1998-2007 of the magazine were scanned manually and data relating to published pages, content analysis of English, Urdu and Punjabi prose and poetry, author's affiliations and the number of pages were recorded and tabulated on yearly basis. However analysis of short notes has not considered, as these notes have been added only to cover the gaps at the end of articles.

Finally, the collected data was analyzed for generating required information. The Ravi being an interdisciplinary subject includes a number of interrelated fields. The subjects

of the published materials and their facets have been classified as per broad classes of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) scheme.

## DATA ANALYSIS

The total number of contributions published covering 3759 pages in ten volumes during the decade was 2036, which consists of prose and poetry published in Urdu, English and Punjabi languages.

**TABLE 1 LANGUAGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF PAGES**

Years	Pages							%age (Total)
	Eng	Urdu	Punjabi	Total	%age (Eng)	%age (Urdu)	%age (Pun)	
1998	100	176	24	300	5.52	10.55	8.63	7.98
1999	142	140	24	306	7.83	8.39	8.63	8.14
2000	172	170	23	365	9.49	10.19	8.27	9.71
2001	196	152	36	384	10.81	9.11	12.95	10.22
2002	176	153	33	362	9.71	9.17	11.87	9.63
2003	204	154	40	398	11.25	9.23	14.39	10.59
2004	197	159	34	390	10.87	9.53	12.23	10.38
2005	200	188	16	404	11.03	11.27	5.76	10.75
2006	240	186	14	440	13.24	11.15	5.04	11.71
2007	186	190	34	410	10.26	11.39	12.23	10.91
Total	1813	1668	278	3759	100	100	100	100
%age	48	45	7					

Table 1 also shows the year-wise distribution of pages in all three languages of the magazine. A total of 3759 pages with the average 376 were published during the decade. All pages covered prose and poetry of English, Urdu and Punjabi languages. The highest number 1813 (48%) of publications was published in English followed by 1668 (45%) in Urdu and 278 (7%) in Punjabi. The range of number of pages in English (240-100) was 140, in Urdu (190-140) 50 and in Punjabi was (40-14) 26. The highest number of published pages

in English, Urdu and Punjabi were 240, 190 and 36 respectively. In the lowest side number of published pages was 100, 140 and 14. However frequencies of highest and lowest pages in all the three sections were not in any order.

**TABLE 2 YEAR-wise CONTENT ANALYSIS PROSE AND POETRY (ENGLISH)**

YEAR	Essays	Short Stories	Drama	Interview	Biographical. Essays	Report	Total I	Poems	G Total
1998	6	6			2	10	24	20	44
1999	16	14		1	6	20	57	22	79
2000	16	7				19	42	29	71
2001	21	9	2	2	5		39	23	62
2002	26	14	2	1			43	22	65
2003	32	24	1		5		62	30	92
2004	55	5	1	1	1		63	20	83
2005	36	13	2	2			53	13	66
2006	49	5	1	2			57	13	70
2007	33	11	1	2	2	1	50	12	62
Total	290	108	10	11	21	50	490	204	694
%age	59	22	2	2	5	10	100		
% age Prose 71					% age Poetry 29				

The table shows that 694 contributions were published in prose and poetry categories during 1998-2007. The number of prose and poetry was calculated 490 (71%) and 204 (29%) respectively. The table also reveals that there was increasing trend during the years 1998-2005 particular in the essays category. Year 2005 shows highest number (55) in the category during ten years. In the same context minimum number was 6 in the year 1998. It is evident that after 2004 the frequency of essays is not constant. The statistics shows that top three categories of prose in English section were essay, short stories and reports. It is interesting to note that only one report was published in 2007 after the gap of six year i.e.2001. In Urdu section no report was published during the same period. The other interesting feature of published material in prose and poetry section is that all contributions were written by single authors.

It is pertinent to mention that during the period 1998-2007, aggregately 1,068 contributions were published in all three languages. The average of prose contributions published during the ten years in English and Urdu was 49%, 51% respectively.

**TABLE 4 YEAR-wise CONTENT ANALYSIS of PROSE AND POETRY (URDU)**

Years	Part 1 (Prose)						Part 2 (Poetry)		Total Part 2	
	مضامین	افسانہ	ڈرامہ	انٹرویو	خاکہ	رپورٹس	تظہیریں	غزلیں		
1998	32	8	1	0	1	0	42	12	24	36
1999	37	9	0	3	4	4	57	20	19	39
2000	36	7	0	3	5	4	55	30	30	60
2001	38	6	0	2	5	0	51	25	25	50
2002	34	12	0	5	4	0	55	25	32	57
2003	40	9	0	0	5	0	54	34	36	70
2004	30	8	0	0	4	0	42	27	41	68
2005	47	3	0	2	12	0	64	26	35	61
2006	34	5	0	0	1	0	40	27	33	60
2007	44	7	0	0	7	0	58	9	22	31
Total	372	74	1	15	48	8	518	235	297	532
%age	71.8	14.3	0.19	2.9	9.27	1.54	100	44.17	55.83	100
G-Total of Part 1 & 2 = 1050										
% age Prose 49						% age Poetry 51				

It reveals that 1050 contributions were published in Urdu prose and poetry category. The total number of contributions in each category was 518 (49%) and 532 (51%) respectively. In prose the essay category remained highest with 372 (72%) number. It is interesting to note that in English section essays category remained highest. The second and third highest were short stories and biographical essays with 74 (14%) 48 (9%) respectively. The number of contributions in all six categories was varied with different numbers in the decade. The top category i.e. essay form a minimum number of 30 and maximum of 44 in 2004 and 2007 respectively. It is interesting to note that in drama category only one drama

was written during 1998-2007. The table also shows that no single report was published after 2002, in which the university was established. Interview is another category which shows zero number in different years. However the contents of the Urdu shows that almost in all volumes special numbers covering different literary figures have been publishing in every year.

**TABLE 5 YEAR-WISE CONTENTS ANALYSIS (PUNJABI)**

Year	مضامین	نظمیں	غزلیں	Total
1998	4	6	7	17
1999	7	11	5	23
2000	6	16	10	32
2001	5	22	10	37
2002	9	24	20	53
2003	9	20	13	42
2004	8	18	14	40
2005	3	11	6	20
2006	2	8	4	14
2007	7	4	3	14
Total	60	140	92	292
%age	20.5	47.9	31.5	100

The above Table shows that total 292 contributions were written in prose and poetry categories during 1998-2007. Out of 292 contributions number of prose and poetry was 60 and 232 respectively. The overall average of prose and poetry was 20% and 80% respectively. The maximum highest numbers of prose, poems were calculated as 9 and 44 in the same year i.e. 2002.

**TABLE 6 AUTHOR WISE DISTRIBUTION (ENGLISH SECTION)**

Year	Faculty	Administration	Students	Ex-Editors	Guests	Foreigners	Total
1998	4	1	28	3	9		45
1999	2		61	1	11		75

2000	10		49	3	6	1	69
2001	11	1	28	6	14	3	63
2002	11	1	34	5	8	6	65
2003	10		56	4	9	4	83
2004	10	1	39	5	22	4	81
2005	5		49	1	9	3	67
2006	8	2	20	8	18	1	57
2007	8	1	19	4	19	5	56
Total	79	7	383	40	125	27	661
%age	12	1	58	6	19	4	100

The above table shows the articles emanating from faculty, students, ex-editors, guests and foreign contributors. The highest number of contributions were 383 (58%) had emanated from students. Faculty and guests category account for 79 (12%) and 125 (19%) respectively. Ex-editors contributed 40 (6%) pieces of poems and poetry. The administrative departments contributed 7 (1%) articles out of 661 articles. In the foreign category 27 publications were appeared in English Section. Hasan Nasr and Noam Chomsky were the prominent contributors. During the decade ex-editors contributed 40 (6%) articles. During this period the two ex-editors were associated with Ravi in 1960 and 1974. However the association of other ex-editors with the Ravi was during the years 1998-2007. It may be concluded that the editorial board has easy access to the nearest years editors rather the old years.

**TABLE 7 AUTHOR-WISE DISTRIBUTION (URDU SECTION)**

Year	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Pages	E*	U**	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U
Min.	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1
Max	10	4	6	8	15	9	8	14	8	12	6	9	6	11	9	13	16	8	8	8

The statistics of above table shows the articles emanating from faculty, students, administrative staff, ex-editors, local writers including former students and foreigners. The highest number of articles totaling 524 (59%) has emanated from students. Faculty, guests writers and ex-editors categories account for 116 (13%), 180 (20%) and 64 (7%)

contributions. The administrative departments contributed only 12 (1%) articles out of 896 total contributions. It is interesting to note that not a single foreign author contributed any piece of prose or poetry.

During the decade ex-editors category got third position with 64 contributions. The maximum and minimum numbers of contributions were 13 and zero respectively. It is interesting to note that in years 2001-2003 ex-editors contributed maximum contributions i.e.11-13. The maximum and minimum numbers of contributions by the students were 64 (2002) and 37(1999). On the same pattern the faculty contributed maximum 16 and minimum 8 contributions in the years 2002 and 2007. It is interesting to note that no single foreigner contributed any material piece of writing during 1998-2007. However local writers/poets contributed 180 (20%) items which is more than the number of items written by faculty i.e. 116 (13%). The students and guests produced maximum number of publications in 2002. It is pertinent to mention that only 1% contributions made by the administrative staff during the period in English and Urdu categories.

### **AUTHORSHIP PATTERN IN ENGLISH AND URDU**

It has been observed that all 661 and 896 contributions in English and Urdu were published with the names of authors and no one is without author. Data reveals that contributions of students were on the top with 383 (58%) and 584 (59%) contributions in English and Urdu section respectively. The faculty contributed 79 (12%) out of 661 articles in English and 116 (13%) out of 896 in Urdu respectively. The conclusion may be drawn that students contributed maximum numbers of contributions in English and Urdu section. The data shows that administrative staff contributed only 7 (1%) and 12 (1%) articles in English and Urdu during 1998-2007. In Urdu Section no single article was written by any foreign author.

**TABLE 8 PICTURES INCLUDED 1998-2007**

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total	Average
Pictures	105	83	63	62	59	48	36	25	19	62	562	56

The above table indicates the number of pictures included in the Ravi during the period. During the ten years 562 pictures were published. The three highest numbers of pictures were 105, 83 and 63 in the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively. On the other

hand in the lowest category the numbers were 19 (2006), 25 (2005) and 36 (2004). The average number of pictures during 1998-2007 was 56. It is to be noted the maximum and minimum numbers of pictures included were 105 and 19 in years 1998 and 2006 respectively. However in all ten years pictures have been publishing without any missing.

**TABLE 9 RANGE OF PAGES IN ENGLISH AND URDU.**

Year	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		
	E*	U**	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	E	U	
Min.	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1
Max	10	14	6	8	15	9	8	14	8	12	6	9	6	11	9	13	16	8	8	8	

Table contains that maximum and minimum length of articles published in English and Urdu sections of the Ravi. Table shows that the maximum number of pages of English articles was 16 and minimum was 1. However the maximum and minimum number of pages appeared in the same year i.e. 2006. Considering the same parameters in Urdu the maximum and minimum pages were 14 and 1 respectively. The maximum number appeared two different years i.e. 1998 and 2001 and minimum number was 1, which appeared in different five years i.e. 1999, 2000, 2003, 2005 and 2007. On the same pattern minimum 1 page contributions appeared seven times in English section during 1998-2007.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

The number of contributions in prose and poetry of the magazine is not consistent and varies from volume to volume. Each issue of the magazine includes pictorial section. Inclusion of photos in each volume indicates that the university administration gives importance to extra-curricular activities and also covered the functions of all societies of the university. However particular focus was given to university level societies. No one articles included in the Ravi provide abstract and keywords. Introduction of the contributor's is given but not as a regular feature. This study also focused on the pattern of authorship of articles published in the RAVI over a ten-year period, which shows that without any exceptions single authors were responsible for the articles published during 1998-2007. No set pattern has been observed in year-wise growth of literature. Most of the articles dealt with the category of essays in prose and poems in poetry sections. The highest number of articles in Urdu was 61%. In English poetry section ranked first for maximum number of published material. The contributor's introduction/affiliation was given either with the published

material or has been added by the editorial board but not regularly. Only 50 (15%) essays out of 662 included references in English and Urdu sections that follow a standard pattern.

The availability of a brief abstract and keywords must be the given at least in essays categories. This is especially needed that contributions must be come from the faculty of languages, religious studies and social sciences. The pattern of contributions of the Ravi must be seen like the reputed academic journals. Further research is needed to compile annotated bibliography of all the back volumes and also to create a profile of the contributor's particular of students and guests. There is a need to focus on the citation impact rather than that of individual publications.

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