Trends and Challenges in Research on LIS

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Outline

• Characterising science and research
• Trends in LIS research 1965-2015
• How are European LIS Schools doing in research in an international comparison?
• Conclusions
Introduction

• My presentation is based on
  • Tuomaala & Järvelin & Vakkari (2014)
  • Analysis of articles in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} issue of 24 LIS core research journals in 2015

• The analysis reveals various characteristics of research in LIS in 1965, 1985, 2005, and 2015
  • A classification in Järvelin & Vakkari (1990)
  • E.g. topic, the social level of analysis, research strategy, data collection methods, the type of analysis

• New sub-classes for 2005+ data
The aim of science is the growth of knowledge

- Theoretical growth
  - A theory = a set of interrelated concepts
  - Theories are more comprehensive and accurate
  - Greater analytical power (e.g. formalization)
  - The number and variety of new, fruitful hypotheses

- Empirical growth
  - The number and variety of the empirical consequences supported

- The type of contribution?
% of viewpoints on the information dissemination process by year

Several interconnected phases
Intermediary’s
Intermediary organization’s
End user’s
End-user organization’s
Developer’s

1965 (n = 142) 1985 (n = 449) 2005 (n = 626)
% the social level of the unit of analysis

- Individual
- Organizational
- Societal
- Multi-level
- Not applicable

1965 (n = 142) 1985 (n = 449) 2005 (n = 626) 2015 (n = 165)
% Investigation type

- Emp descriptive
- Emp comparative
- Emp explanatory
- Conceptual
- Theoretical
- Methodological
- System description
- Other

%
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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<td>U. of Western Ontario—LIS</td>
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Conclusions

• The major aim of science is the growth of knowledge, which may produce practical applications

• Information retrieval, information seeking, LIS services, and scientific and professional communication are the most popular areas of research

• There is a lack of studies in LIS
  • Using other than individual level approach to phenomena
  • With explanatory research design
References


