
**AN ASSESSMENT OF AUTHOR AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION
PRODUCTIVITY IN ISSUES IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS:
A FIVE YEAR REVIEW 2009 - 2013**

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ABSTRACT

*Over the years, there has been considerable interest in assessing author and institutional affiliation productivity. Commonly noted reasons for assessing author and institutional productivity include impact on the field, promotion and tenure decisions, and attracting quality faculty and students to the institution. The purpose of this study is to assess author and institutional affiliation productivity for articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five years. Results of the study revealed 21 authors with six or more articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five years. There were 28 institutional affiliations with ten or more articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five years.*

Keywords: articles, author, institutional affiliation

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, there has been considerable interest in assessing both author and institutional affiliation productivity [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. Ku [3] noted that reviewing author and institutional productivity offered insight into the influence of a publication. Both authors and institutions benefit from such productivity reviews. Specifically, authors benefit as publications are often a measure of productivity and play an important role in promotion and tenure decisions. Institutions benefit as publications offer insight into scholarly productivity at the institution level leading to program visibility. This strong program visibility can be helpful for attracting both students and new faculty to the institution [3].

West, Armstrong, and Ryan [8] stated that publishing has a growing importance for individual authors and institutions. For example, publishing is connected with impact on the field. The field is influenced by asserting what topics are presented to the profession. The institutional affiliations of authors successful at publishing influence other professionals in the field. They went on to state that continually assessing publication activity assists the field by making note of the impact publishing has on the field [8].

In addition, Hanna and LaTour [2] reported that little has been written about author scholarly productivity and its connection to practice. Morrison and Wilcox [5] stated that faculty are expected to contribute in three areas: teaching, service, and research. These three areas are not mutually exclusive but interrelated. Lastly, Lau, Cisco, and Delgado-Romero [4] explained that research productivity is frequently measured by author and institutional affiliation in selected scholarly journals.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

There has been considerable interest in assessing author and institutional affiliation productivity. Reasons for this interest include impact on the field, promotion and tenure decisions, and attracting quality faculty and students to the institution. Results of this study provide insight into author and institutional affiliation productivity and potential impact through publication in *Issues in Information Systems* during the past five years.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to assess author and affiliation productivity for articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five-years (2009 – 2013). Specifically, answers to the following two research questions were sought:

1. What is the top level author productivity for publishing in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five-years (2009 – 2013)?
2. What is the top level institution affiliation productivity for publishing in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five-years (2009 – 2013)?

METHODOLOGY

The methodology section includes a description of data collection procedures and data analysis procedures.

Data Collection Procedures

All articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* from 2009 – 2013 served as the data source. The number of individual articles in each issue ranged from a low of 28 in volume 11, issue 2, to a high of 95 in volume 11, issue 1. All authors and their institutional affiliations were identified for each article and entered into a spreadsheet for later analysis.

Data Analysis Procedures

All authors and their institutional affiliation information gathered during the data collection portion of the study were analyzed using spreadsheet tools. Specifically, to answer questions one and two and determine author and institutional productivity spreadsheet tools were used to sort and to determine frequency. Each author and each institutional affiliation was determined during the data analysis.

RESULTS

The two research questions provide a framework for presenting study results.

Research Question One

Research question one sought to determine the top level author productivity for publishing in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five-years (2009 – 2013). Data analysis for author productivity revealed 21 authors with six or more articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five years (2009 - 2013). Three of these 21 authors published 16 articles in *Issues in Information Systems* during the past five years (2009 – 2013). The vast majority of these 21 authors were from Robert Morris University (n = 12, 57%) and Ball State University (n = 3, 14%). The remaining six (29%) authors with six or more articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five years had individual institutional affiliations. Table 1 presents a ranked list of the top producing authors, their institutional affiliations, and number of articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* during the past five years (2009 – 2013).

Research Question Two

Research question two sought to determine the top level institutional affiliation productivity for publishing in *Issues in Information Systems* during the last five-years (2009 – 2013). Twenty-seven institutional affiliations had ten or more affiliated authors. Robert Morris University was the most frequent institutional affiliation with 200 affiliated authors. Ball State University was second with 34 author institutional affiliations. Table 2 presents a ranked list of the top institutional affiliations and the number of author affiliations.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The results of study are based on an analysis of articles published in *Issues in Information Systems* during the past five years. It is acknowledged that reviews of other author and institutional affiliation productivity timeframes could produce different results and that *Issues in Information Systems* is only one outlet for author and institutional productivity. In addition, other researches have analyzed author and institutional productivity affiliation by alternative methods. If one or more of these alternative methods had been used during this study, different results might have been obtained. Thus, the following is offered with these caveats in noted.

Table 1 Top Five-Year Productivity By Author

| Rank | Author Articles | Author Affiliation | # of Articles |
|------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Fredrick Kohun | Robert Morris University | 16 |
| 1 | Karen Paullet | Robert Morris University | 16 |
| 1 | Mysore Ramaswany | Southern University | 16 |
| 2 | Paul Kovacs | Robert Morris University | 14 |
| 3 | John Scarpino | Robert Morris University | 13 |
| 4 | Robert Behling | Arrowrock Technology | 10 |
| 5 | Melody Alexander | Ball State University | 9 |
| 5 | Gary Davis | Robert Morris University | 9 |
| 5 | Sushama Mishra | Robert Morris University | 9 |
| 5 | Alan Peslak | Penn State University | 9 |
| 5 | Allen Truell | Ball State University | 9 |
| 5 | Jensen Zhao | Ball State University | 9 |
| 6 | Robert Skovira | Robert Morris University | 8 |
| 6 | David Wood | Robert Morris University | 8 |
| 7 | Jeanne Baugh | Robert Morris University | 7 |
| 7 | Alex Koohang | Macon State College | 7 |
| 8 | Seong-Yong Hong | University of California, Irvine | 6 |
| 8 | Phillip Kim | Walsh University | 6 |
| 8 | Joseph Laverty | Robert Morris University | 6 |
| 8 | Daniel Rota | Robert Morris University | 6 |
| 8 | John Turchek | Robert Morris University | 6 |

Based on a review of data presented in Table 1 and Table 2, it can be reported that a number of authors and a number institutional affiliations contributed a large portions of articles published in *Issues in Information Systems*. A possible reason for high levels of author and institutional affiliations are the number of faculty and doctoral students at a given institution. Programs with large numbers of faculty and doctoral students will likely produce more scholarly articles. It is also possible that authors from institutions with doctoral programs generate more articles as part of that process. Mentoring doctoral students includes assisting with publication of scholarly articles. Other highly productive authors and institutional affiliations might simply be that faculty enjoy the research process and the friendships developed as a result publishing scholarly articles.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this study, and the review of the literature, the following additional research recommendations are offered:

1. This study should be replicated in five-year intervals. Such a study would provide insight into author and institutional productivity changes overtime.
2. This study should be expanded to include other information systems related journals. Such a study would provide insight into author and institutional productivity across a variety of information systems related journals.

3. This study should be expanded to include a variety of author characteristics such as tenure-track/tenured and academic rank. Such a study would provide insight into the impact of such characteristics on author and institutional affiliation productivity.
4. This study should be expanded to determine why some authors and institutional affiliations are highly productive. A qualitative study might provide addition insight regarding productivity.
5. This study should be expanded to include additional author and institutional affiliation analyses. Author of other author and institutional affiliation studies have used alternative methods in their analyses. Such a study would offer additional insight into author and institutional affiliation productivity in *Issues in Information Systems*.

Table 2 Top Five-Year Productivity By Institution

| Rank | Institution | # of Author Affiliations |
|------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Robert Morris University | 200 |
| 2 | Ball State University | 34 |
| 3 | Central Michigan University | 28 |
| 4 | Western Carolina University | 25 |
| 5 | Georgia Southern University | 21 |
| 5 | University of Turabo | 21 |
| 6 | Southern University | 20 |
| 7 | California University of Pennsylvania | 19 |
| 7 | Washburn University | 19 |
| 8 | Bryant University | 18 |
| 8 | Macon State College | 18 |
| 9 | Alabama State University | 17 |
| 10 | Chung Yuan Christian University | 13 |
| 11 | University of Houston-Clear Lake | 12 |
| 11 | Ohio University | 12 |
| 11 | San Jose State University | 12 |
| 11 | Western Washington University | 12 |
| 12 | Saint Cloud State University | 11 |
| 12 | Virginia State University | 11 |
| 12 | University of Mississippi | 11 |
| 13 | Elon University | 10 |
| 13 | Missouri University of Science and Technology | 10 |
| 13 | Nicholls State University | 10 |
| 13 | Quinnipiac University | 10 |
| 13 | St. Bonaventure University | 10 |
| 13 | Winona State University | 10 |
| 13 | Winston Salem State University | 10 |

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