

# Canadian Perspectives: A Content Analysis of Selected English Language LIS Research

Lisa Shamchuk   
MacEwan University

To support evidence based decision making, whether by educators updating and enhancing Library and Information Studies (LIS) curriculum content, or by practitioners improving services, programs, and other evaluative practices within various library settings, this exploratory quantitative content analysis examined the extent of Canadian representation within selected English language LIS research articles. In total, 4354 peer reviewed research articles from 25 LIS journals published between 2015-2022 were coded for Canadian content, author affiliation, and sector representation. Percentages of Canadian content and authorship representation from this analysis align with previous studies, showing that Canadian content and author affiliations are less prevalent compared to those from the USA, with a strong emphasis on academic libraries and academic affiliated authors. A shortlist of key academic journals with significant Canadian representation, content, and perspectives was compiled and shared to aid in gathering evidence about Canadian libraries.

*Keywords:* Content analysis, Library and Information Studies, Canada, Canadian content

## Introduction

Library educators often use newly published research articles to incorporate current information and practices into their curriculum, facilitating timely and relevant classroom content. Similarly, practitioners working within the various settings of the Library and Information Studies (LIS) field may seek current research content and consider broader perspectives for their service, programming, and evaluative decision making efforts. Reviewing fresh ideas, concepts, strategies, case studies, and best practices from current research allows educators and practitioners to reflect the evidence-based practice approach common in LIS.

Additionally, Canadian LIS educators and practitioners may wish to focus specifically on gathering information from Canadian perspectives. Adkins (2019) emphasized the need for research into regional differences, noting though “public libraries share some commonalities worldwide, they function in different contexts, and those contexts influence public library practice and research” (p. 229). Similarly, Paul-Hus et al. (2016) stated, “We know that what is published and read in a scientific community is shaped by geography, language, and political systems” (p. 333). The researcher, a Canadian LIS educator, anecdotally hypothesized that Canada-focused LIS information is lacking and that research may predominantly

represent academic libraries, with sparse coverage of public, school, and special libraries, resulting in perceived Canadian representation gaps within consulted areas of LIS research. This perceived gap may make it challenging for educators to present up-to-date information on certain LIS topics within the curriculum, or for those working within libraries and other information settings to gather evidence about current practices to inform their daily work, especially from a Canadian perspective. This exploratory study conducted a quantitative content analysis of selected recent English language research articles from the LIS field to gather empirical information about the presence of Canada-focused LIS research, including the authors and sectors represented. The goal was to recommend a shortlist of key academic journals with Canadian representation, content, and perspectives to aid educators’ and practitioners’ various evidence-gathering purposes.

## Literature Review

### Content Analysis in LIS Research

Content analysis is widely used in LIS research: Armann-Keown and Patterson (2020) reported an 833% increase in published LIS research articles using this method between 1990 and 2015. This method has been applied to various data sources such as journal articles, interview transcripts, job ads, and websites within and outside the LIS field (White & Marsh, 2006).

Examples of country-specific content analysis studies include Julien and Fena (2019), Xie and Sun (2018), and Yang et al. (2016), which analyzed single journals from

specific countries (Canada, China, and Korea, respectively), or Gupta and Chakravarty (2022), who conducted a topical content analysis of LIS research articles from BRICS countries. Luo and McKinney (2015) studied a journal focused on academic library content, while Liu and Yang (2019) and Winkler and Kiszl (2020) analyzed various academic LIS journals. Other studies have explored themes like anti-racism and social justice (Jones et al., 2022), gender of authorship (Whitfield, 2022), open access (Chang, 2015; 2017), and academic impact (Chang, 2021). Larivière et al. (2012) provided a 100-year overview of LIS publishing, highlighting the field's growth and interdisciplinary nature, and Paul-Hus et al. (2016) and Walkers & Wilder (2016) also utilized content analysis to add further evidence of this interdisciplinary nature.

Zhang and Wang (2016) chronicled studies using journal article analysis to identify research methods, topics, subjects, and themes in LIS. Comparative information about LIS content analysis studies can be found in Armann-Keown & Patterson (2020), Julien & Fena (2019), and White & Marsh (2006). Due to variations in variables, research methods, time spans, and geography, findings from different content analyses are not always comparable, though general trends may be identified (Julien & Fena, 2019).

### **Canadian Content**

Previous studies have focused exclusively on Canadian content and researchers. For example, Julien & Fena (2019) conducted a retrospective content analysis of a Canadian LIS journal, while Mongeon et al. (2023), Paul-Hus et al. (2016), and Wolfram (2012) studied output from Canada-affiliated LIS faculty researchers. Wider scoping analyses have also reported on Canadian content. Walters & Wilder (2016) found that Canada-affiliated authors contributed 4% of articles in 31 specific LIS journals, ranking fifth. Vaidya et al. (2022) found Canada ranked fourth (3%) in service quality articles, while Davarpanah and Aslekia (2008) placed Canada third (4%) in LIS journal contributions. Canada-affiliated authors made up 9% of the authors analyzed by Adkins (2019) and 11% by Penta and McKenzie (2005), though both studies focused on public library content. Penta and McKenzie (2005) did include an analysis of two journals published in Canada – such journals may not always be included in content analyses. Furthermore, Kim (2023) noted Canada was fifth in the world for LIS journal publishing, but a journal published in Canada does not necessarily contain Canadian content. For example, *Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice* is listed as published in Canada but international in scope (Kloda, 2015).

### **Authorship**

The LIS field includes practitioners (librarians) and faculty researchers (academics), with "practitioner-researchers" (often academic librarians) bridging practice and academia

(Albarillo et al., 2022; 2024). Walters and Wilder (2017) noted academic librarians contribute significantly to professional literature due to tenure requirements at many institutions. Chang (2016) emphasized "Practical knowledge plays an essential role in the development of LIS knowledge" (p. 540), a claim supported by Woods and Booth (2013), who state "that practitioner research continues to make a large contribution to LIS research activity" (p. 14).

Chang (2015) surveyed authorship in 19 open access journals, reporting academic librarians and LIS faculty as the most prolific (see also Chang, 2017; Walters & Wilder, 2016; Xie & Sun, 2018). Chang (2021) found that while librarians were not the main knowledge contributors, their academic impact was comparable to that of LIS faculty researchers, though the librarians studied were predominantly academic librarians. Much research has focused on the research culture and productivity of academic librarians (for example, Albarillo et al., 2022; 2024; Hoffmann et al., 2014; 2017), but less attention has been paid to practitioners in other types of libraries. Aytac and Slutsky (2014) noted an increase in practitioner research, particularly in academic and special library topics, while public library research is mainly conducted by LIS faculty researchers. Furthermore, Penta and McKenzie (2005) reported public librarians contributed only 3% of the research literature and 6% of the practitioner literature. Adkins (2019) found LIS faculty researchers (58%) and practitioners (14%) authored most public library research articles, noting that public library research receives little scholarly attention today (see also Chapman & Pike, 1994; Penta & McKenzie, 2005) due to the lack of prestige, publication venues, and incentives to publish. It has been reported public and school librarians who publish research articles do not get recognition on performance evaluations as research is not considered a good use of time that could be focused on more traditional duties, may not have access to research materials to assist their efforts, and often prescribe more usefulness to accessing and publishing in practical professional and trade publications, or other online venues such as blogs, social media, or websites (Adkins, 2019; Chapman & Pike, 1994; Penta & McKenzie, 2005; Richey & Cahill, 2014).

### **Library Sector**

Little research has quantified and compared library sector representation in LIS literature. Wilson (2010) found public library sessions were more prevalent at Canadian provincial library association conferences, followed by school and academic libraries, although sessions applicable for all library sectors (topically related) outnumbered sector focused sessions. Richey & Cahill (2014) reported that while most school librarians used evidence-based practice, formal research articles were seldom used, and only informal research data collected. Gavigan (2018) recommended collaborative efforts to increase evidence-based research in school libraries,

and Woods and Booth (2013) posited “This is not to say that every practitioner should necessarily become a researcher” (p. 17).

Given the prevalence of evidence-based practice and the focus on academic library research and academic authorship, it would benefit the LIS profession to have more diverse authorship and scope in LIS research literature (Penta & McKenzie, 2005). An exploratory content analysis from a Canadian perspective may add empirical data about the current landscape of selected LIS literature.

### Method

In order to potentially identify any existence of a perceived Canadian representation gap, this exploratory study used quantitative content analysis to investigate sources and authorship of selected LIS research articles. Huxley (2020) defines quantitative content analysis as “the systematic coding and quantification of content, including written, visual, or oral content. . . and analyzing patterns or features of the coded content using statistical methods.” (p. 2). This study followed the procedures outlined by White & Marsh (2006), which include establishing hypotheses, identifying appropriate data and sampling, creating data collection and coding schemes, and analyzing coded data with statistical tests. Both Huxley (2020) and White & Marsh (2006) emphasize the importance of replication and interrater reliability in research design.

The research questions for this exploratory study were: Within the selected sample of LIS research journals:

1. Where is Canada-focused LIS research being published?
2. Where are Canada-affiliated LIS authors of research articles publishing?
3. What types of libraries (and other information sectors) do Canada-affiliated LIS authors of research articles identify with?
4. What types of libraries (and other sectors) are being researched, particularly within Canada-focused research articles, or by Canada-affiliated LIS authors of research articles?
5. Are Canada-affiliated LIS authors of research articles writing about Canada-focused research?

Due to the broad and varied nature of the LIS field and the labour-intensive content analysis method, it was necessary to set parameters for the scope of journals analyzed (Armann-Keown & Patterson, 2020; Huxley, 2020). The LIS journals chosen for analysis had to:

- publish peer-reviewed original research articles.
- publish in English.
- be in print between 2015-2022.

Analyzing peer-reviewed articles containing original research provides insights into the ability of selected LIS literature to inform evidence-based practice and curriculum content via valid, reliable, and methodologically sound information. Theoretical discussions, editorials, opinion pieces, book reviews, evidence summaries, conference papers, and case studies were excluded. Trade journals or articles were not included. Both the researcher and research assistant speak English as a first language, so non-English sources were not included. The Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory (ProQuest, 2023) verified journal details, and journals not meeting the date range criteria were excluded. The chosen date range initially covered five years due to labour and time constraints but was extended to eight years to account for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on research and publishing timelines.

Using the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)’s (2016) Research Taxonomy listing as a scoping guide, this study focused on journals that primarily publish articles on Information Practices, Education of Information Professionals, Information Services, Information Technologies, and Sociocultural Perspectives, and excluded those journals primarily focused on Data Management, Data Science, Human-Computer Interaction & Design, and Information Organization and Retrieval. While articles about these excluded areas published in selected journals were included, results are not comprehensive and may underrepresent specific focuses of LIS research such as knowledge, data and information management, computer and information systems, cataloguing and metadata, archives, and records management. Journals focused narrowly on a particular type of library were not automatically excluded. Journals with authorship restricted to members of specific associations or students from particular institutions were not included.

There is no one definitive or exhaustive listing or ranking of LIS journals, thus a list of key journals published in Canada was compiled using Scimago Journal Rankings (SJR) (Scimago, 2023), which includes H-index and citation counts; Journal Citation Reports (JCR) (Clarivate, 2023), which includes Impact Factor and citation counts; the DOAJ (2023), an open access database; a periodicals listing from Librarianship.ca (2021); and the University of Saskatchewan Library’s Peer Reviewed LIS Journals list (Berg & Hoffmann, 2022). The Canadian journals analyzed were:

- *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science*
- *Canadian Law Library Review*
- *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*
- *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*
- *Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association*
- *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*

Additional journals were selected from the above lists and previously published content analyses, primarily Liu and Yang

(2019) and Walters and Wilder (2015, 2016). Liu and Yang (2019) adapted the list identified by Nixon (2014), which was created using “expert opinion surveys, acceptance and circulation rates, h-indexes, impact factors, and journals with librarian articles” (Liu & Yang, 2019, p. 280). The list used by Walters & Wilder (2015, 2016) was compiled using JCR (Clarivate, 2023), and the list from Manzari (2013), who surveyed LIS faculty to produce a ranking based on the subjective importance of journals used for LIS research and teaching. Narrowed to a sample of 19 for feasibility, additional journals analyzed were:

- *Collection Management*
- *College & Research Libraries*
- *College & Undergraduate Libraries*
- *Health Information & Libraries Journal*
- *Information Technology & Libraries*
- *Journal of Academic Librarianship*
- *Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship*
- *Journal of Librarianship & Information Science*
- *Journal of the Medical Library Association*
- *Law Library Journal*
- *Library Hi Tech*
- *Library & Information Science Research*
- *Library Quarterly*
- *Library Resources & Technical Services*
- *Library Trends*
- *Portal: Libraries & the Academy*
- *Public Library Quarterly*
- *School Library Research*
- *Serials Review*

Several journals prevalent on the above lists were excluded because they narrowly did not meet the chosen date range criteria, such as *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship* (which began publishing in 2016), and *Reference and User Services Quarterly* (which paused publishing in 2021). Though unintentional, all journals analysed were listed as published in either Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), or the USA.

A coding guide was created, and intercoder reliability was tested with a random sample of one issue from one journal from each of the Canadian and additional list. The researcher and the research assistant coded both issues privately and compared results to confirm a high level of interrater reliability (98%), an important quality of quantitative content analyses (Huxley, 2020). Articles were manually coded by the researcher team, and recorded using Google Sheets, from June 2023 to July 2024. All spreadsheets were stored on a secure institutional Google Drive, accessible only by the research team.

Articles were coded for country of research focus, country of author affiliation, and sector representation. To be coded as a country of research focus, the country name needed to be

clearly stated within a research article’s methods section as a location for data collection: a country could be represented by a specific national population, or via the collection of country-specific data, for example. Standard country codes from the United Nations Statistical Division (2006) were used. Where multiple countries were part of an article’s research study, all were coded separately and as instances of multiple country representation. Non-geographically affiliated articles, such as text based analyses like systematic, literature, or scoping reviews, and topical content analyses, were excluded. Author provided affiliation details varied widely, and were often limited to institutional names, so granular information about author roles was not always possible. For example, authors affiliated with an academic institution could not always be reliably identified as either a LIS faculty researcher, other discipline faculty researcher, academic librarian, or student. Author nationality could likewise not be determined. Authors with multiple provided affiliations were coded to the first listed. Deriving mean from number of authors or author position, such as first author, second author etc. was out of scope for this research and was not coded.

Keywords for coding sectors were derived from the ALISE (2016) Research Taxonomy and included Academic libraries, Archives, Museums, Public libraries, and School libraries. Special libraries were further divided into Health, Law, Government, Corporate/private, Non-profit, Religious, and Correctional facilities (Reitz, 2014). Additional keywords included Digital libraries, Galleries, and International libraries. For articles with research on multiple sectors, each sector was coded separately, and instances of multiple sectors within a single article were not tracked. Topical focus was not coded specifically, and overarching LIS themes affecting multiple sectors were categorized as Other. Topical themes included in the Other category included information organization, practices, technology, LIS education, publishing and research, and intellectual freedom, for example.

## Results

A total of 4,354 articles published from 2015-2022 were coded across 755 issues from 25 journals: six (24%) were from Canada, six (24%) from the UK, and 13 (52%) from the USA.

### Research Question 1: Where is Canada-focused LIS research being published?

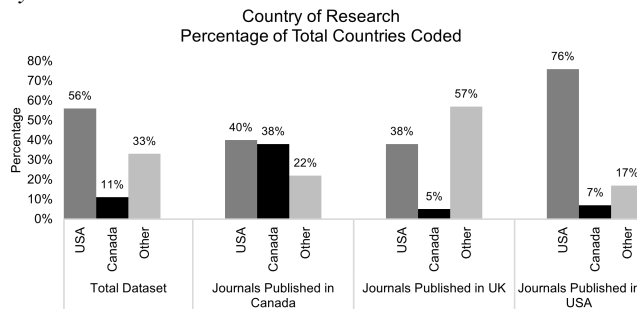
#### *Country of Research*

Across the entire dataset, 4,836 instances of countries were recorded, encompassing 122 countries. Canada was the focus of 11% (n=514) of this dataset of countries coded, the second most researched country after the USA (56%, n=2,689). In Canadian journals, 550 articles from 176 issues had 639 instances of countries recorded across 55 countries. Canada

was the focus of 38% (n=245) of this dataset, the second most researched country after the USA (40%, n=255). In the UK journals, 1743 articles from 3,205 issues recorded 1985 instances of countries, including 98 countries. Canada was the focus of 5% (n=109) of this dataset, the fourth most researched country, after the USA (38%, n=760), China (9%, n=188), and the UK (6%, n=120). In the USA journals, 2061 articles from 396 issues had 2,212 instances of countries recorded for 97 countries. Canada was the focus of 7% (n=160) of this dataset, the second most researched country after the USA (76%, n=1,674).

**Figure 1**

*Country of Research: Percentage of Total Countries Coded, By Dataset*



In the total dataset, 5% (n=218) of the articles focused on multiple countries within a single article, with Canada included in 56% (n=121) of these, making up 3% of the total articles included. There were 115 unique multi-country combinations, with Canada in 34 (30%). In Canadian journals, 71% (n=35) of these articles included Canada, compared to 36% (n=35) in the UK journals and 70% (n=51) in the USA journals. The most common combination was 'Canada and the USA,' found in 80 articles (37% of multi-country articles, 2% of the total dataset). No other combination exceeded 1% of any dataset.

### *Canadian LIS Research by Journal*

Of the top 10 journals with research focused on Canada, six were published in Canada, and four in the USA (see Table 1). Three Canadian journals included Canada as the focus of research in over 90% of their articles: *Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association* (97%), *Canadian Law Library Review* (92%), and *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research* (91%). Only one journal, *Law Library Journal* (USA), included no Canada-focused research.

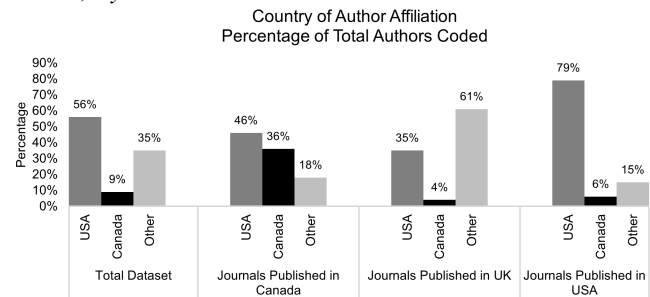
## **Research Question 2: Where are Canada-affiliated LIS authors of research articles publishing?**

### *Country of Author Affiliation*

The entire dataset included 9,993 authors from 105 different countries. Authors who identified affiliation with a Canadian institution comprised 9% (n=854), the second most represented country after the USA (56%, n=5,599). In Canadian journals, 1,123 authors from 45 countries were recorded: Canada-affiliated authors totalled 36% (n=404), the second most represented country after the USA (46%, n=519). In the UK journals, 4,299 authors from 92 countries were recorded, and Canada-affiliated authors totalled 4% (n=166), the fourth most represented country, after the USA (35%, n=1481), China (12%, n=499), and the UK (7%, n=308). In the USA journals, 4,588 authors from 72 countries were recorded: Canada-affiliated authors were 6% (n=284) of this dataset, the second most represented country after the USA (79%, n=3,599).

**Figure 2**

*Country of Author Affiliation: Percentage of Total Authors Coded, By Dataset*



### *Canadian Authorship by Journal*

Of the top 10 journals with Canada-affiliated author representation, six were published in Canada, and four in the USA (see Table 2). Three Canadian journals had over 90% of their articles authored by Canada-affiliated individuals: *Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association* (99%), *Canadian Law Library Review* (95%), and *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research* (91%). Two journals, *Law Library Journal* and *School Library Research* (both published in the USA), included no Canada-affiliated authors.

## **Research Question 3: What types of libraries (and other information sectors) do Canada-affiliated LIS authors of research articles identify with?**

In the dataset of 9993 authors, most (88%, n=8,751) were affiliated with academic institutions and thus were either a LIS faculty researcher, other discipline faculty researchers,

academic librarians, staff, or students. The Other category comprised 5% (n=450), encompassing roles like technical support personnel, independent researcher, civil servant, or consultant. Other notable affiliations included Health libraries (3%, n=338), Non-profit organizations (2%, n=150), and Public libraries (1%, n=113). Categories with less than 1% included Government libraries, Law libraries, Corporate and private organizations, Digital libraries, School libraries, Archives, and Museums. Correctional facilities, Galleries, International libraries, and Religious institutions had no representation.

Among the 854 authors affiliated with Canadian institutions, most were from academic institutions (79%, n=676 overall; 74%, n=200 in Canadian journals; 93%, n=155 in the UK journals; 78%, n=221 in the USA journals) (see Table 3). Other affiliations included Health libraries (6%, n=47), Other (5%, n=43), Non-profit organizations (4%, n=35), Law libraries (3%, n=22), and Public libraries (2%, n=14). Archives, Digital libraries, Government libraries, Museums, and School libraries recorded less than 1%, and no Canadian authors were affiliated with Corporate and private organizations, Correctional facilities, Galleries, International libraries, or Religious institutions.

**Research Question 4: What types of libraries (and other sectors) are being researched, particularly within Canada-focused research articles, or by Canada-affiliated LIS authors of research articles?**

In the dataset of 4,354 articles, 4,361 instances of research sectors were coded. The most researched sector was Academic libraries (47%, n=2049), followed by Other (33%, n=1,453). In Canadian journals, Other was the most researched sector (55%, n=303), while Academic libraries followed (23%, n=129). In the UK and USA journals, Academic libraries were the primary focus (46%, n=806 and 53%, n=1,094 respectively), with Other as the second most researched sector (30%, n=520, and 26%, n=530 respectively). Only Public libraries (11%, n=460), Health libraries (3%, n=120) and School libraries (2%, n=100) recorded representation over 1% for the entire dataset. Archives, Law libraries, Digital libraries, Non-profit organizations, Government libraries, Museums, Correctional facilities, Corporate and private organizations, Religious institutions, and International libraries each represented less than 1% of the recorded sectors, and Galleries was not coded at all.

For articles focused on Canada, there were 515 sectors coded over 514 articles. Other was the leading sector (43%, n=223), followed by Academic libraries (34%, n=173). In Canadian journals, Other was predominant (58%, n=141), followed by Academic libraries (20%, n=49). Academic libraries was the most written about sector in articles focused on Canada in the UK and USA journals (48%, n=53 and 44%, n=71 respectively). Public libraries was the third most

researched sector (11%, n=59), followed by Health libraries (6%, n=32) and Law libraries (3%, n=15). Archives, Correctional facilities, Non-profit organizations, Government libraries, School libraries, and Digital libraries each represented 1% or less of the total dataset, and Corporate and private organizations, Galleries, International libraries, Museums, and Religious institutions were not coded at all.

For the 474 articles by Canada-affiliated authors, 92% (n=437) focused on Canada as a country of research (see Table 4). Academic libraries were the most researched sector for these authors (39%, n=183), with Other close behind (38%, n=181). Other was most prominent in Canadian journals (53%, n=118), with Academic libraries second (22%, n=49), whereas Academic libraries were the primary focus in the UK and USA journals (61%, n=68 and 47%, n=66 respectively), with Other as the second most researched sector (27%, n=30, and 24%, n=33 respectively) for the Canada-affiliated authors. Public libraries followed (12%, n=55), with Health libraries (5%, n=26) and Law libraries (4%, n=22) next. Five sectors each recorded 1% or less (Archives, Correctional facilities, Non-profit organizations, Government libraries, and Digital libraries), and six (Corporate and private organizations, Galleries, International libraries, Museums, Religious institutions, and School libraries) were not covered in Canada-focused articles by Canada-affiliated authors.

**Research Question 5: Are Canada-affiliated LIS authors of research articles writing about Canada-focused research?**

Of the 4,354 total articles, 12% (n=514) focused on Canada, either as a single country (76%, n=393) or among multiple countries (24%, n=121). In Canadian journals, Canada was the focus of 45% (n=245 of 550), while in the UK and USA journals, it was 6% (n=109 of 1743) and 8% (n=160 of 2061), respectively.

Among the articles focused on Canada, 85% (n=437) had at least one Canada-affiliated author. This was 89% (n=218 of 245) in Canadian journals, 81% (n=88 of 109) in the UK journals and 82% (n=131 of 160) in the USA journals. Articles with no Canada-affiliated authors were mostly multi-country studies (91%, n=70 of 77), while only 1% (n=37 of 3840) of articles without a Canadian focus had at least one Canada-affiliated author.

## Discussion

Canadian representation as both a focus of research and author affiliation is notable, particularly when considering the vast population discrepancies between Canada and countries such as the USA, though the results of this study may be influenced by the inclusion of journals published in Canada. Canada ranks from second to fourth for both country of research focus and author affiliation. Trends align with previous studies: for country of author affiliation, results from this study are similar to findings from Adkins (2019), Davarpanah and Aslekia (2008), Penta and McKenzie (2005), Vaidya et al. (2022), and Walters & Wilder (2016). Accordingly, the findings most align to Penta and McKenzie (2005), who also included journals published in Canada within their sample (though they focused on public library content only). Canada, as a country of research focus within many multi-country studies, demonstrates some evidence of broad global interest, particularly for research comparing or incorporating data from both Canada and the USA, a common partnership also noted by Paul-Hus et al. (2016). Research on Canada is more frequent in Canadian journals, with Canada-affiliated authors prevalent in such articles. Articles without Canada-affiliated authors often involve multiple countries, and Canada-affiliated authors are less likely to be involved in research focusing outside Canada. Though consistently trailing the USA as a country of research focus and for author affiliation, even in journals published in Canada, Canada-focused research and affiliated authors are strongly established with the global LIS research landscape.

Previous studies have emphasized academic librarians and LIS faculty as primary authors of LIS research literature (Chang 2015; 2017; Walters & Wilder, 2016, Xie & Sun, 2018), and this study confirms the dominance of academic institutions among authors. Author affiliation with health and law libraries was evident, though perhaps overrepresented due to the inclusion of health and law library-specific journals within the sample. In contrast, though both public and school library-related journals were also included within the sample, little author representation from public or school libraries was evident, aligning with findings from Adkins (2019), Aytac and Slutsky (2014) and Penta and McKenzie (2005).

Of the selected articles studied, research about academic libraries or sector-agnostic topically focused studies were the most prominent, followed by public libraries at a distant third place. Besides the minor representation of health and law libraries, there exists only a small body of literature for under-represented library types, such as public and school libraries, particularly evident in focused journals such as *Public Library Quarterly* or *School Library Research*. Regardless, beyond academic libraries, topically focused research, and special library research within special library-specific journals, there is room for further diversification within LIS research.

Based on the selected LIS journal sample included as part

of this study, LIS educators and practitioners looking to explore, consult, and incorporate Canadian content, representation, and perspectives could focus their evidence gathering efforts on the following journals. While the *Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association* and *Canadian Law Library Review* are obvious sources of Canada-focused special library content, both *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research* and the *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science* are key sources of Canada-focused content on a broad range of library types and topics. All published in Canada and containing the word “Canadian” within their journal titles, these four journals also lead in terms of Canadian author affiliation and may be considered “must-read” journals for LIS educators and practitioners seeking Canadian representation and perspectives. Also published in Canada, yet showing evidence of a more global scope, aligning with the assertions of Kim (2023) and Kolda (2015), *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice* and the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* also provide significant Canadian content. Journals published outside Canada, such as the *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, *Public Library Quarterly*, *Library Quarterly*, and *College & Research Libraries* (all published in the USA) include notable (close to 10%) Canadian representation as well.

## Limitations and Future Research

Limitations include the lack of a definitive journal list, exclusion of LIS trade publications, and no analysis of information published in institutional repositories, conference publications, or other sources of grey literature. Limiting the scope to exclude journals primarily focused on categories such as data science or information organization research further limits the comprehensive representation of LIS literature within this study, both in terms of country of research focus and author affiliations. The exclusion of articles with no geographical indicator may have produced fewer results for certain library and information sectors, such as Health libraries, of which systematic reviews of broad geographical focus are commonplace. Future research could broaden the type and amount of information sources or focus on additional LIS sectors, categories, or journals excluded from this study. While neither the *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship* nor *Canadian School Libraries Journal* were included in this study as they did not meet the scoping criteria, these may also be consulted for potential Canadian representation and could be included in future journal content analyses. Additionally, a similar study of selected trade publications or practitioner journals that do not solely focus on research content may provide additional insight into the reach of Canadian representation, and authorship and institutional affiliation. Numerous journals that publish exclusively about specific library types, such as *Journal of the Canadian*

**Table 1***Percentage of articles with Canadian focused research, by journal*

Journal Name	Country of Publication	Total Articles in Journal	Number of Articles with Canadian Research	Percentage of Articles with Canadian Research
<i>Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association</i>	Canada	30	29	97%
<i>Canadian Law Library Review</i>	Canada	48	44	92%
<i>Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research</i>	Canada	58	53	91%
<i>Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science</i>	Canada	94	54	57%
<i>Journal of Education for Library and Information Science</i>	Canada	185	35	19%
<i>Journal of the Medical Library Association</i>	USA	145	26	18%
<i>Evidence Based Library and Information Practice</i>	Canada	135	24	18%
<i>Public Library Quarterly</i>	USA	170	20	12%
<i>Library Quarterly</i>	USA	142	14	10%
<i>College &amp; Research Libraries</i>	USA	383	37	10%
<i>Health Information &amp; Libraries Journal</i>	UK	115	10	9%
<i>Journal of Business &amp; Finance Librarianship</i>	USA	110	9	8%
<i>Library &amp; Information Science Research</i>	UK	211	15	7%
<i>Library Trends</i>	USA	153	10	7%
<i>Library Hi Tech</i>	UK	262	17	6%
<i>Information Technology &amp; Libraries</i>	USA	171	11	6%
<i>Collection Management</i>	USA	140	9	6%
<i>Serials Review</i>	UK	91	5	5%
<i>Journal of Academic Librarianship</i>	UK	701	38	5%
<i>Portal: Libraries &amp; the Academy</i>	USA	234	12	5%
<i>Library Resources &amp; Technical Services</i>	USA	110	5	5%
<i>Journal of Librarianship &amp; Information Science</i>	UK	363	14	4%
<i>College &amp; Undergraduate Libraries</i>	USA	170	6	4%
<i>School Library Research</i>	USA	42	1	2%
<i>Law Library Journal</i>	USA	91	0	0%

**Table 2***Percentage of authors affiliated with a Canadian institution, by journal*

Journal Name	Country of publication	Total authors in journal	Number of Canada-affiliated authors	Percentage of Canada-affiliated authors
<i>Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association</i>	Canada	73	72	99%
<i>Canadian Law Library Review</i>	Canada	55	52	95%
<i>Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research</i>	Canada	116	105	91%
<i>Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science</i>	Canada	158	71	45%
<i>Evidence Based Library and Information Practice</i>	Canada	317	53	17%
<i>Journal of Education for Library and Information Science</i>	Canada	404	51	13%
<i>Journal of the Medical Library Association</i>	USA	492	62	13%
<i>Collection Management</i>	USA	280	31	11%
<i>Public Library Quarterly</i>	USA	335	30	9%
<i>Journal of Business &amp; Finance Librarianship</i>	USA	187	15	8%
<i>College &amp; Research Libraries</i>	USA	928	64	7%
<i>Library Quarterly</i>	USA	339	24	7%
<i>Health Information &amp; Libraries Journal</i>	UK	463	28	6%
<i>Serials Review</i>	UK	180	10	6%
<i>Journal of Academic Librarianship</i>	UK	1596	76	5%
<i>Library &amp; Information Science Research</i>	UK	493	25	5%
<i>Library Trends</i>	USA	298	16	5%
<i>Information Technology &amp; Libraries</i>	USA	374	16	4%
<i>College &amp; Undergraduate Libraries</i>	USA	339	9	3%
<i>Library Resources &amp; Technical Services</i>	USA	225	6	3%
<i>Journal of Librarianship &amp; Information Science</i>	UK	881	14	2%
<i>Library Hi Tech</i>	UK	686	13	2%
<i>Portal: Libraries &amp; the Academy</i>	USA	552	11	2%
<i>Law Library Journal</i>	USA	119	0	0%
<i>School Library Research</i>	USA	103	0	0%

**Table 3**

*Authors affiliated with Canada: sector of author affiliation, by dataset*

Sector of author	Total	Journals published in Canada	Journals published in the UK	Journals published in the USA
Academic institutions	79%	74%	93%	78%
Health Libraries	6%	7%	1%	6%
Other	5%	7%	2%	4%
Non-profit organizations	4%	3%	1%	8%
Law libraries	3%	5%	0%	0%
Public Libraries	2%	<1%	1%	4%
Archives	1%	1%	1%	0%
Digital libraries	1%	1%	0%	0%
Government libraries	<1%	<1%	1%	1%
Museums	<1%	0%	0%	<1%
School libraries	<1%	0%	1%	0%
Corporate and private organizations	0%	0%	0%	0%
Correctional facilities	0%	0%	0%	0%
Galleries	0%	0%	0%	0%
International libraries	0%	0%	0%	0%
Religious institutions	0%	0%	0%	0%

**Table 4**

*Sector of research focus*

Sector of Research	Total	Canada-focused articles	Articles by Canada-affiliated authors
Academic libraries	47%	34%	39%
Other	33%	43%	38%
Public libraries	11%	11%	12%
Health libraries	3%	6%	5%
School libraries	2%	<1%	0%
Archives	<1%	1%	1%
Law libraries	<1%	3%	4%
Digital libraries	<1%	<1%	<1%
Non-profit organizations	<1%	1%	1%
Government libraries	<1%	<1%	<1%
Museums	<1%	0%	0%
Correctional facilities	<1%	1%	1%
Corporate and private organizations	<1%	0%	0%
Religious institutions	<1%	0%	0%
International libraries	<1%	0%	0%
Galleries	0%	0%	0%

*Health Libraries Association, Journal of Academic Librarianship, or Law Library Journal* were included based on their presence in multiple journal listings. However, the inclusion of sector-specific journals may have influenced the prevalence of results pertaining to the types of libraries being researched and written about. The study did not account for journal impact factors or cover journals from other disciplines that may include LIS research.

Authors were coded to their country of occupation, though it is acknowledged this information is limiting as nationality and country of employment are not always a match. Future research could also further explore author qualifications, institutional affiliations, and occupations in greater depth. Furthermore, this study did not adjust the data to account for the country's population, and future research incorporating such an approach could provide additional insights.

Since this study focused on Canadian content, it should be acknowledged that though Canada has two official languages, English and French, only research articles published in English were included. Including articles published in French may have provided additional information about Canadian coverage, and future research could broaden the language of study. Furthermore, future research is needed to determine the extent to which Canada-affiliated LIS educators and practitioners use Canadian content and perspectives within their professional practice and to assess the value placed on Canadian representation within evidence-based decision making.

The date range selected also naturally posed limitations on the data that was analyzed, and it must be noted that the COVID-19 global pandemic affected research productivity, scholarly publishing practices and output, and topical emphasis within LIS literature (Shin & Lee, 2022; Smart, 2020). The degree to which the pandemic affected journals included in this study, particularly within the period of 2020-22, is unknown. The study's hand-coded and analyzed data might also introduce subjectivity or error, although interrater reliability was high. This research study analyzed content within a particular sample of journals published within a particular date range and could be replicated in the future to provide longitudinal results as a point of comparison.

### Conclusion

This analysis of selected English language LIS research articles revealed substantial Canadian presence in terms of research focus and author affiliation. While the USA perspective remains the dominant focus, Canadian perspectives are well-represented, especially in Canadian journals. A recommended shortlist of journals is available for those seeking to consult Canadian content, applicable for both practitioners considering a Canadian perspective for evidence-based decision-making purposes and library educators aiming to include Canadian representation to enhance curriculum connections. In alignment with previous research, most articles

published within this selected sample were authored by those who were affiliated with an academic institution and focused on research about academic libraries or topically focused research. Thus, this study highlights the need for increased diversity within LIS research representation and suggests future investigation into how Canada-affiliated library educators and practitioners, particularly those working in under-researched sectors, can be supported with their own evidence-gathering or research-focused needs.

### Acknowledgment

The author wishes to thank Asar Parnmukh for his contributions as a research assistant on this project.

### References

- Adkins, D. (2019). Journals, subjects, and authors of research literature on public libraries: An analysis. *Public Library Quarterly*, 38(2), 211–233. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01616846.2018.1564533>
- Albarillo, F., Kennedy, M., & Brancolini, K. (2022). Assessment of the Institute for Research Design in Librarianship (IRDL): Impact on the research productivity and careers of academic librarians. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 17(4), 3–35. <https://doi.org/10.18438/ebliip30094>
- Albarillo, F., Kennedy, M., & Brancolini, K. (2024). Assessment of the Institute for Research Design in Librarianship, phase 2: Impact on the research productivity and careers of academic librarians. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 19(1), 4–34. <https://doi.org/10.18438/ebliip30461>
- Armann-Keown, V., & Patterson, L. (2020). Content analysis in library and information research: An analysis of trends. *Library and Information Science Research*, 42(4). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lisr.2020.101048>
- Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE). (2016). *ALISE research taxonomy*. ALISE. <https://www.alise.org/research-taxonomy->
- Aytac, S., & Slutsky, B. (2014). Published librarian research, 2008 through 2012: Analyses and perspectives. *Collaborative Librarianship*, 6(4), 147–159.
- Berg, S., & Hoffmann, K. (2022). *Peer Reviewed LIS Journals*. University of Saskatchewan University Library. <https://library.usask.ca/cebliip/research-resources/peer-reviewed-journals.php>
- Chang, Y. W. (2015). Librarians' contribution to open access journal publishing in library and information science from the perspective of authorship. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 41(5), 660–668. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2015.06.006>
- Chang, Y. W. (2016). Characteristics of articles co-authored by researchers and practitioners in li-

- brary and information science journals. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 42(5), 535–541. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2016.06.021>
- Chang, Y. W. (2017). Comparative study of characteristics of authors between open access and non-open access journals in library and information science. *Library and Information Science Research*, 39(1), 8–15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lisr.2017.01.002>
- Chang, Y. W. (2021). Academic impact of articles by practitioners in the field of library and information science. *College & Research Libraries*, 82(1), 59–74. <https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.82.1.59>
- Chapman, K., & Pike, L. E. (1994). Public librarians as authors in the library science periodical literature. *Public Library Quarterly*, 13(3), 47–61. [https://doi.org/10.1300/J118v13n03\\_06](https://doi.org/10.1300/J118v13n03_06)
- Clarivate. (2023). *Journal Citation Reports*. Clarivate. <https://clarivate.com/products/scientific-and-academic-research/research-analytics-evaluation-and-management-solutions/journal-citation-reports/>
- Davaranpanah, M.R., & Aslekia, S. (2008). A scientometric analysis of international LIS journals: Productivity and characteristics. *Scientometrics*, 77(1), 21–39. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-007-1803-z>
- DOAJ. (2023). *DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals*. DOAJ. <https://doaj.org/>
- Gavigan, K. (2018). School library research from around the world: Where it's been and where it's headed. *Knowledge Quest*, 46(5), 32–39. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1182653>
- Gupta, N., & Chakravarty, R. (2022). Deciphering the status of library and information science research in BRICS Nations: A research visualization approach. *Journal of Library Administration*, 62(3), 404–418. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01930826.2022.2043695>
- Hoffmann, K., Berg, S., & Koufogiannakis, D. (2014). Examining success: Identifying factors that contribute to research productivity across librarianship and other disciplines. *Library & Information Research*, 38(119), 13–28. <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wlpub/60>
- Hoffmann, K., Berg, S., & Koufogiannakis, D. (2017). Understanding factors that encourage research productivity for academic librarians. *Evidence Based Library & Information Practice*, 12(4), 102–128. <https://doi.org/10.18438/B8G66F>
- Huxley, K., (2020). Content analysis, Quantitative, In P. Atkinson, S. Delamont, A. Cernat, J.W. Sakshaug, & R.A. Williams (Eds.), *SAGE Research Methods Foundations*. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781526421036880564>
- Jones, E. P., Mani, N. S., Carlson, R. B., Welker, C. G., Cawley, M., & Yu, F. (2022). Analysis of anti-racism, equity, inclusion and social justice initiatives in library and information science literature. *Reference Services Review*, 50(1), 81–101. <https://doi.org/10.1108/RSR-07-2021-0032>
- Julien, H., & Fena, C. (2019). Thirty-one years of the Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science: A content analysis / Trente et un ans de la Revue canadienne des sciences de l'information et de bibliothéconomie: Une analyse de contenu. *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science*, 42(1), 1–17. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/717385>
- Kim, E. (2023). Publishing international library and information science journals: The changing landscape. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 55(2), 478–486. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09610006221090958>
- Kloda, L. A. (2015). What it means to be an international journal. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 10(4), 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.18438/B8359T>
- Larivière, V., Sugimoto, C. R., & Cronin, B. (2012). A bibliometric chronicling of library and information science's first hundred years. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science & Technology*, 63(5), 997–1016. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.22645>
- Librarianship.ca. (2021). *Periodicals*. Librarianship.ca. <https://librarianship.ca/resources/periodicals/>
- Liu, G., & Yang, L. (2019). Popular research topics in the recent journal publications of library and information science. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 45(3), 278–287. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2019.04.001>
- Luo, L., & McKinney, M. (2015). JAL in the past decade: A comprehensive analysis of academic library research. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 41(2), 123–129. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2015.01.003>
- Manzari, L. (2013). Library and information science journal prestige as assessed by library and information science faculty. *Library Quarterly*, 83(1), 42–60. <https://doi.org/10.1086/668574>
- Mongeon, P., Gracey, C., Riddle, P., Hare, M., Simard, M.-A., & Sauvé, J.-S. (2023). Mapping information research in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Information & Library Sciences*, 46(2), 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.5206/cjilsrscib.v46i2.15568>
- Nixon, J. M. (2014). Core journals in library and information science: Developing a methodology for ranking LIS journals. *College & Research Libraries*, 75(1), 66–90. <https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/16352/17798>
- Paul-Hus, A., Mongeon, P., & Shu, F. (2016). Portraying the landscape of Canadian library and information science research = Portrait de la recherche en bibliothéconomie et sciences de l'information au Canada. *Canadian Journal of Information & Library Sciences*, 40(4), 332–346. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/649274>
- Penta, M., & McKenzie, P. J. (2005). The big gap remains: Public librarians as authors in LIS journals, 1999–2003. *Public Library Quarterly*, 24(1), 33–46. [https://doi.org/10.1300/J118v24n01\\_04](https://doi.org/10.1300/J118v24n01_04)
- ProQuest. (2023). *Ulrichsweb Global Seri-*

- als Directory*. Proquest Serial Solutions. <http://ulrichsweb.serialssolutions.com>
- Reitz, J. (2014). Special library. *ODLIS: Online dictionary for library and information science*. ABC-CLIO. [https://odlis.abc-clio.com/odlis\\_s.html#speciallibrary](https://odlis.abc-clio.com/odlis_s.html#speciallibrary)
- Richey, J., & Cahill, M. (2014). School librarians' experiences with evidence-based library and information practice. *School Library Research*, 17(2), 1-19.
- Scimago. (2023). *Scimago Journal Rankings*. Scimago. <https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php>
- Shin, E.-J., & Lee, G. (2022). Exploring COVID-19 research papers published on journals in the field of LIS. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, *OnlineFirst*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09610006221090676>
- Smart, P. (2020). Publishing during pandemic: Innovation, collaboration, and change. *Learned Publishing*, 33(3), 194-197. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1314>
- United Nations Statistical Division. (2006). Methodology: Standard country or area codes for statistical use (M49). United Nations. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>
- Vaidya, P., Malik, B. A., & Ali, P. M. N. (2022). Characteristics and trends in literature of library service quality as reflected in Scopus. *Serials Librarian*, 81(2), 145-175. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0361526X.2021.1882642>
- Walters, W. H., & Wilder, E. I. (2015). Worldwide contributors to the literature of library and information science: Top authors, 2007-2012. *Scientometrics*, 103(1), 301-327. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-014-1519-9>
- Walters, W. H., & Wilder, E. I. (2016). Disciplinary, national, and departmental contributions to the literature of library and information science, 2007-2012. *Journal of the Association for Information Science & Technology*, 67(6), 1487-1506. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.23448>
- Walters, W. H. (2017). Composite journal rankings in library and information science: A factor analytic approach. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 43(5), 434-442. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2017.06.005>
- White, M. D., & Marsh, E. E. (2006). Content analysis: A flexible methodology. *Library Trends*, 55(1), 22-45. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/lib.2006.0053>
- Whitfield, S. (2022). Women's voices in library technology: Explored through thematic analysis in library publications. *Journal of Library Administration*, 62(4), 481-493. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01930826.2022.2057128>
- Wilson, V. (2010). Something for everyone? A content analysis of provincial library association conference sessions. *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 5(1), 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.21083/partnership.v5i1.1097>
- Winkler, B., & Kiszl, P. (2020). Academic libraries as the flagships of publishing trends in LIS: A complex analysis of rankings, citations and topics of research. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 46(5), 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2020.102223>
- Wolfram, D. (2012). An analysis of Canadian contributions to the information science research literature: 1989-2008. *Canadian Journal of Information & Library Sciences*, 36(1/2), 52-66. <https://doi.org/10.1353/ils.2012.0005>
- Woods, H. B., & Booth, A. (2013). What is the current state of practitioner research? The 2013 LIRG research scan. *Library and Information Research*, 37(116), 2-22. <https://doi.org/10.29173/lirg598>
- Xie, J., & Sun, L. (2018). A content analysis of Journal of Library Science in China in 2007-2016. *Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship*, 30(4), 185-197. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1941126X.2018.1521083>
- Yang, K., Lee, J., & Choi, W. (2016). Publication and citation patterns of Korean LIS research by subject areas. *Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science*, 21(2), 67-81. <https://doi.org/10.22452/mjlis.vol21no2.5>
- Zhang, J., Zhao, Y., & Wang, Y. (2016). A study on statistical methods used in six journals of library and information science. *Online Information Review*, 40(3), 416-434. <https://doi.org/10.1108/OIR-07-2015-0247>