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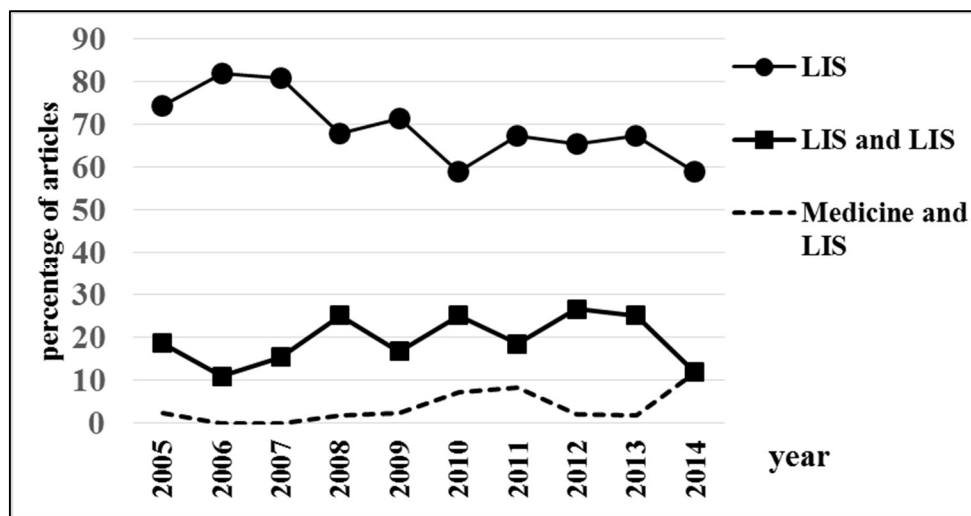
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Most studies on the interdisciplinary characteristics of LIS have focused on which other disciplines cite LIS publications, which disciplines are cited by LIS publications, and to what degree authors from other disciplines publish in LIS journals. Also, the focus of such research is typically limited to LIS journals themselves, rather than all LIS research, whereas LIS studies are not always available only from LIS publications. The publication of articles in non-LIS journals by LIS authors has been neglected by interdisciplinary research, which mostly explores the spillover of other disciplines into LIS.

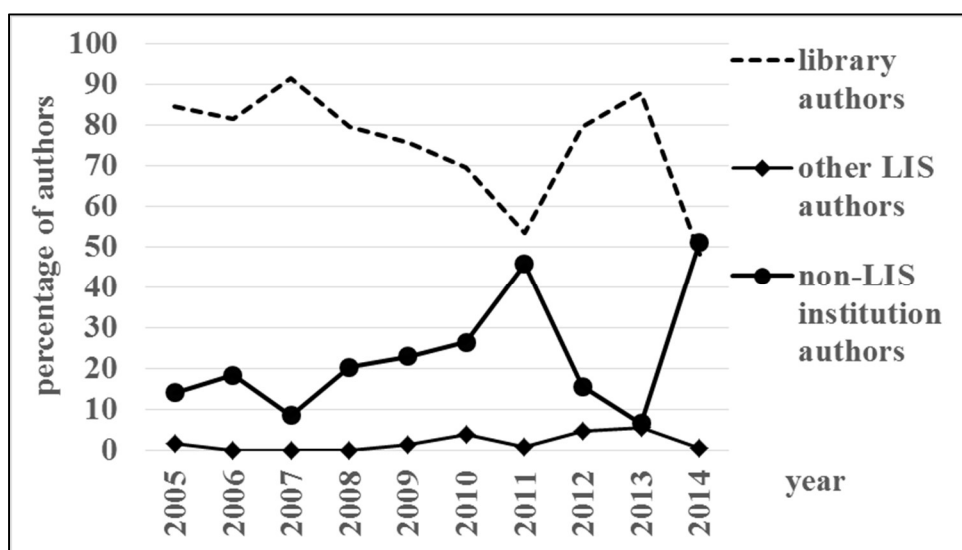
Authors affiliated with LIS institutions and publish in non-LIS journals are termed *interdisciplinary LIS authors* in the present study. Interdisciplinary LIS authors have a strong association with the evolution of LIS research because they work for LIS institutions, such as libraries, higher education programs in LIS, information industry companies, LIS agencies, and so on. Although interdisciplinary authors who publish research results in journals outside their own discipline are few in number in any given discipline, they can be considered active authors who expand the visibility of their own disciplines by breaking boundaries. Since interdisciplinary LIS authors affect LIS knowledge, their work can be used as a proxy for learning more about the interdisciplinary characteristics of LIS and contributing to the growing literature on LIS interdisciplinarity.

Articles published in non-LIS journals by LIS authors between 2005 and 2014 and indexed by the Web of Science database formed the basis for analysis. The results showed that interdisciplinary LIS authors published articles in 28 disciplines; a largest number of articles were found in medicine and music journals. Over half of the articles published by these authors were not LIS-related and were primarily singly-authored articles and articles coauthored by LIS and non-LIS authors.

Most articles coauthored by only LIS authors involved LIS-related topics—interdisciplinary LIS authors preferred to publish by themselves. The majority of interdisciplinary authors were academic librarians. Interdisciplinary LIS authors most frequently collaborated with other LIS authors, followed by authors from the field of medicine. Although interdisciplinary LIS authors are a minority, they are active in expanding the visibility of LIS. These diverse disciplinary backgrounds help LIS author librarians in conducting research that matches their subject specialties, which are not limited to LIS, and also provides them with opportunities to collaborate with non-LIS authors.



Changes in the percentage of articles by only LIS authors and those by only medicine and LIS authors



Changes in percentage of authors by institution type

While the findings confirm that LIS authors published in non-LIS journals, the research topics of approximately half of these articles were found to be LIS-related. Since these articles were published in non-LIS disciplines, they can be considered to be on interdisciplinary topics.

This study focused on interdisciplinary LIS authors and contributes to a better understanding of the characteristics of interdisciplinary LIS authors and their articles. Interdisciplinary LIS authors with diverse disciplinary backgrounds and research interests do cross over disciplines. Interdisciplinary LIS authors do strengthen the interdisciplinary nature of LIS. Several unique findings were identified from this study which can enrich studies on the interdisciplinary characteristics of LIS.