

## Select Bibliography International and Comparative LIS Research: Texts and Examples of Research

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### International and comparative LIS texts

#### *Older texts*

- Danton, J Periam. 1973. *The Dimensions of Comparative Librarianship*. Chicago: American Library Association. – A foundational text. Critically reviews attempts to define comparative librarianship and distinguish it from international librarianship before discussing terminology, definition and scope; purpose and value; publication, research and education; and methodology. Imbued with the positivist approach of 1960s and 1970s social and educational research methods texts which sought to emulate methods of natural sciences, but still worth reading.
- Krzysz, Richard, and Gaston Litton. 1983. *World Librarianship: A Comparative Study*. Books in Library and Information Science 42. New York: Marcel Dekker. – Pioneering work; ambitious and fascinating but ultimately unsuccessful attempt to create a new discipline, seeking to establish a global librarianship, in which practitioners will share a single body of knowledge, and be able to practice anywhere in the world in accordance with a universal professional theory and philosophy. Very formulaic.
- Simsova, Sylva, and Monique MacKee. 1970. *A Handbook of Comparative Librarianship*. London: Bingley. – First English-language monograph on the field. Pragmatic, but attempts to get to grips with questions of definitions of the field, the comparative method, types of comparative studies and patterns of comparison. Very formulaic.

#### *Later work*

- Lor, P.J. (2019), *International and Comparative Librarianship: Concepts and Methods for Global Studies*, De Gruyter/Saur, Berlin; Boston. – After the initial flurry of interest, later work was mainly repetitive. This is the only comprehensive monograph since the 1980s.
- Vitiello, Giuseppe. 1996. ‘Che cos’è la biblioteconomia comparata? [What is comparative librarianship?]’. In *Le biblioteche europee nella prospettiva comparata*, edited by Giuseppe Vitiello, 11–34. Ravenna: Longo Editore. – Wide-ranging and thoughtful essay on comparative librarianship, from a European perspective, with good coverage of the literature. Has interesting perspective on origins of comparative studies, with emphasis on comparative linguistics and anthropology and their development over time.

#### *Cultural factors*

- Barrett, C.B. and Cason, J.W. (1997), *Overseas Research*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore MD, available at: <http://barrett.dyson.cornell.edu/Books/overseas%20research.pdf> (accessed 7 May 2018). – Practical guide for researchers (particularly in social sciences) going overseas to do research, with emphasis on developing countries.
- Bulmer, M. and Warwick, D.P. (Eds.). (1983), *Social Research in Developing Countries: Surveys and Censuses in the Third World*, UCL Press. – Edited work comprising chapters dealing with a wide range of issues in social research, with focus on research for development.
- Chilisa, B. (2005), “Educational research within postcolonial Africa: a critique of HIV/AIDS research in Botswana”, *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, Vol. 18 No. 6, pp. 659–

684.—Argues that mainstream research in postcolonial societies still ignores, marginalizes and suppresses other knowledge systems and ways of knowing. Useful discussion of colonialism, colonial legacy, postcolonial condition; also interesting from methodological perspective: language and cultural issues in questionnaire surveys, research ethics in team research.

Liamputtong, P. (2010), *Performing Qualitative Cross-Cultural Research*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. – Deals with culturally sensitive qualitative research methods that are appropriate for cross-cultural research, with emphasis on indigenous groups (first peoples in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA), refugees, immigrants and minority groups, and on women and subaltern groups. Examples often drawn from sensitive topics (often from research on reproductive health). Strong ethical, caring, responsible and responsive basis. Particularly useful for language and translation/interpretation issues.

Marshall, A. and Batten, S. (2003), “Ethical issues in cross-cultural research”, in Roth, W.-M. (Ed.), *Proceedings of the University of Victoria Faculty of Education Research Conference - Connections '03*, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, pp. 139–151.—Very thorough, scholarly overview, many references. Value & worldview, systems approach; research design; informed consent; entry into the field, control and participant roles. Approaches to data collection, participative action research. Writing, representation, and dissemination of results. Community ethics.

## **Comparative disciplines**

### ***General***

Hantrais, L. (2009), *International Comparative Research: Theory, Methods and Practice*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, England. – Recommended as a multi-disciplinary introduction; only 194 pages but comprehensive; gives a lucid overview of the field, with useful definitions, covering disciplinary approaches, research design, methodological issues, international settings, and project management; from a European perspective.

Ragin, C.C. (1987), *The Comparative Method: Moving beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies*, University of California Press, Berkeley CA.—Ground-breaking text for comparative studies of ‘large macro-social units’ such as countries; weighs up the trade-off between qualitative case-oriented strategies to disentangle ‘multiple and conjunctural causation’, and variable-oriented quantitative strategies; introduces the method of ‘qualitative comparative analysis’ which qualitative and quantitative approaches.

### ***Comparative education***

Phillips, D. and Schweisfurth, M. (2014), *Comparative and International Education: An Introduction to Theory, Method, and Practice*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Bloomsbury Academic, London.—Comprehensive introduction; the nature of comparison and the comparative method; methodology; application of comparative and international education, including ‘educational transfer’ (also known as policy borrowing).

Raivola, R. (1986), “What is comparison? Methodological and philosophical considerations”, in Altbach, P.G. and Kelly, G.P. (Eds.), *New Approaches to Comparative Education*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, pp. 261–273.—Analysis of the concept of comparison, which has been the subject of various misconceptions. Outlines some problems in the use of comparison in generalization and theory building, and in cross-cultural comparisons.

Steiner-Khamsi, G. (2010), “The politics and economics of comparison”, *Comparative Education Review*, Vol. 54 No. 3, pp. 323–342. – Very useful article, dealing with the nature and purpose of comparative research, especially its use as a policy ‘tool’; the study of ‘educational transfer’ and policy borrowing; area studies; comparative methodology; globalizations and problems of using nations as units of analysis; rhetoric of globalization and ‘international standards’ in development aid; theoretical frameworks for global dissemination and policy diffusion; educational transfer research.

## ***Comparative politics***

- Landman, T. (2008), *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*, 3rd ed., Routledge, London; New York.—Good introduction, albeit in essentially positivist or behaviourist paradigm. Introductory chapters particularly useful. Chapter 1: "Why compare countries": Reasons for comparison, contextual description, classification, hypothesis testing, prediction. Ontology, epistemology, and methodology. Cases, units of analysis, variables and observations, levels of analysis, quantitative and qualitative methods. Chapter 2, "How to compare countries": Methods of comparison (trade-offs between level of abstraction and scope of countries)...
- Pennings, P., Keman, H. and Kleinnijenhuis, J. (2005), *Doing Research in Political Science; an Introduction to Comparative Method and Statistics*, 2nd ed., SAGE Publications, London; Thousand Oaks CA. -- Comprehensive and quite detailed introduction to quantitative methods and statistics in research in political science.
- Sartori, G. (1991). Comparing and miscomparing. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 3(3), 243–257.— Frequently cited article. Seeks to explain 'the disappointing performance of the field of comparative politics addressing three basic questions: Why compare? What is comparable? And How?' Rich in insights.

## **Examples of International and Comparative LIS research**

### ***"Foreign librarianship": country studies by insiders***

- Al, Umut, and Sinan Akıllı. 2016. 'Public Libraries in Turkey: A Retrospective Look and the Present State'. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science* 48 (3): 298–309.  
doi:[10.1177/0961000615592456](https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000615592456).—Evaluative overview of the public library system in Turkey.
- Jackson, Miles M. 1981. *International Handbook of Contemporary Developments in Librarianship*. Westport CT: Greenwood Press.—Early example of a popular genre: a collection of country chapters contributed mainly by authors from those countries.
- Rahmatullaev, Marat, and Akram Khabibullaev. 2012. 'Uzbekistan: Libraries in Uzbekistan: Past, Present and Future'. In *Libraries in the Early 21st Century: An International Perspective*, edited by Ravindra N Sharma, 1:375–86. Berlin: De Gruyter Saur.—Detailed and comprehensive country account, also of interest as an example of post-Soviet development aid.

### ***"Foreign librarianship": country studies by outsiders***

- Amery, Stephen R. 1998. 'Romanian Libraries: Past, Present, and Future'. In *Libraries : Global Reach – Local Touch*, edited by Kathleen de la Peña McCook, Barbara J Ford, and Kate Lippincott, 110–23. Chicago: American Library Association.—Reflects interest of Western librarians in the post-Soviet period, with emphasis on transformation of library systems along Western lines.
- Gaudet, F, and C Lieber. 2002. 'L'Amérique à votre porte: nouveaux usages, nouveaux services, nouveaux concepts de bâtiments... un avant-goût de notre avenir? [America at your door: new uses, new services, new concepts of buildings... a foretaste of our future?]' *Bulletin des bibliothèques de France* 47 (6): 70–77.—French perspective on LIS in the USA.
- Johnson, Ian M. 2013. 'Library Development in the Georgian Republic: Problems and Progress since the Dissolution of the USSR'. *World Libraries* 20 (2).  
<https://worldlibraries.dom.edu/index.php/worldlib/article/view/516/466>. -- Situation report on the state of libraries and information services, publishing and bookselling in the Republic of Georgia in the South Caucasus, prepared as a background study for a project of the European Commission to modernize professional education and library services..

- Maack, Mary Niles. 1981. *Libraries in Senegal: Continuity and Change in an Emerging Nation*. Chicago: American Library Association.—Thorough, detailed historical and descriptive account of library and archives development. Based on author's PhD thesis. Munthe, Wilhelm. 1939. *American Librarianship from a European Angle*. Chicago: American Library Association.—Widely cited as the 'grand-daddy' of comparative librarianship, although the comparison is largely implicit and not systematic.
- Munthe, Wilhelm. 1939. *American Librarianship from a European Angle*. Chicago: American Library Association.—Widely cited as the 'grand-daddy' of comparative librarianship, although the comparison is largely implicit and not systematic.

### ***Regional studies***

- Abdullahi, Ismail. 2017. *Global Library and Information Science*. 2nd ed. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Saur. doi:[10.1515/9783110413120](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110413120).—Collection of chapters, mainly contributed by authors from the respective regions, organized by continent.
- Al-Aufi, Ali Saif, and Peter Johan Lor. 2012. 'Development of Arabic Library and Information Science: An Analysis Utilizing Whitley's Theory of the Intellectual and Social Organization of Sciences'. *Journal of Documentation* 68 (4): 460–91. doi:[10.1108/00220411211239066](https://doi.org/10.1108/00220411211239066).—Analyses intellectual and institutional characteristics of Arabic library and information science.
- Gropp, Arthur. 1970. 'The National Library in Latin America'. In *Comparative and International Librarianship: Essays on Themes and Problems*, edited by Miles M Jackson, 199–228. Westport CT: Greenwood Publishing Corporation.—General overview and survey followed by country sections.
- Issak, Aissa. 2000. *Public Libraries in Africa: A Report and Annotated Bibliography*. Oxford: INASP. [http://www.inasp.info/uploads/filer\\_public/2013/03/08/public\\_libraries\\_in\\_africa.pdf](http://www.inasp.info/uploads/filer_public/2013/03/08/public_libraries_in_africa.pdf).
- Kaser, David, C Walter Stone, and Cecil K Byrd. 1969. *Library Development in Eight Asian Countries*. Metuchen NJ: Scarecrow Press.—Contains a chapter, following roughly the same structure, per country, each of which was visited by at least one of the authors.
- Rosenberg, Diana, ed. 1997. *University Libraries in Africa: A Review of Their Current State and Future Potential*. 3 vols. London: International African Institute.—Critical and in many cases devastating assessment.

### ***Thematic multi-country surveys***

- Armstrong, Chris, Jeremy De Beer, Dick Kawooya, Achal Prabhala, and Tobias Schonwetter, eds. 2010. *Access to Knowledge in Africa: The Role of Copyright*. Cape Town: UCT Press. [http://www.iplaw.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image\\_tool/images/317/Research\\_and\\_Projects/ACA2K\\_Output\\_Repository/ACA2K-2010-book-UCT-Press-Access-to-Knowledge-in-Africa-The-Role-of-Copyright\\_reduced.pdf](http://www.iplaw.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/317/Research_and_Projects/ACA2K_Output_Repository/ACA2K-2010-book-UCT-Press-Access-to-Knowledge-in-Africa-The-Role-of-Copyright_reduced.pdf).—Excellent in-depth study using mainly qualitative methodology (cf. Ferreira *et al.* below), including use of in-country teams.
- Ferreira, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto, ed. 2019. *Bibliotecas LAC: El impacto de la legislación de derechos de autor en América Latina y el Caribe [Libraries LAC: The impact of copyright legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean]*. São Paulo, Brazil: FEBAB. <http://www.febab.org.br/febab201603/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/LIVRO-FEBAB.pdf>.—Result of a project title, carried out by the IFLA Standing Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, which aimed to identify and record the main difficulties, problems and situations that libraries face daily due to the lack of updating, complexity or absence of national copyright laws in the region. Interesting as a large multi-national survey, with well-documented methodology.
- Vargas-Quesada, Benjamin, Khaldoon Mohammad Oglah Al-Dwairi, Cristina Faba-Perez, and Felix de Moya-Anegón. 2013. 'Web Structure and Influence of the Arab Universities of the MENA Zone (Middle East and North Africa): Visualization and Analysis'. *Aslib Proceedings* 65 (6):

623–43. doi:[10.1108/AP-10-2012-0082](https://doi.org/10.1108/AP-10-2012-0082).—Aims to display the structure and reveal the web influence of institutions in the MENA zone, in terms of countries and universities.

### ***Comparative studies in the strict sense***

- Ignatow, Gabriel. 2011. ‘What Has Globalization Done to Developing Countries’ Public Libraries?’ *International Sociology* 26 (6): 746–68. doi:[10.1177/0268580910393373](https://doi.org/10.1177/0268580910393373).—Reports on a comparative analysis of UNESCO data on public libraries in six developing nations, to determine whether globalisation stimulates or inhibits the establishment of public libraries.
- Ignatow, Gabriel, Sarah M Webb, Michelle Poulin, Ramesh Parajuli, Peter Fleming, Shika Batra, and Diptee Neupane. 2012. ‘Public Libraries and Democratization in Three Developing Countries: Exploring the Role of Social Capital’. *Libri* 62 (1): 67–80. doi:[10.1515/libri-2012-0005](https://doi.org/10.1515/libri-2012-0005).—Mainly qualitative comparative study. Authors provide good rationale for choice of countries.
- Koycheva, Romyana. 2012. “‘Access for All’ and ‘Politics of Difference’”: Comparative Case Study of Two European Libraries’. In *Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge*, edited by Jesús Lau, Anna Maria Tammaro, and Theo J D Bothma, 67–91. IFLA Publications 151. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Saur.
- Kramer, Stefan, and Wolfram Horstmann. 2020. ‘Perceptions and Beliefs of Academic Librarians in Germany and the USA: A Comparative Study’. *LIBER Quarterly* 29 (1): 1–18. doi:[10.18352/lq.10314](https://doi.org/10.18352/lq.10314).—Reports findings of a web-based survey. Good example of quantitative study.
- Olszewski, Lawrence J, and Paula Rumbaugh. 2010. ‘An International Comparison of Virtual Reference Services’. *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 49 (4): 360–68.—Example of quantitative, web-based survey with some limited contextual cross-country comparison.
- Pong, Joanna, and Celine Cheung. 2006. ‘Cataloging of Chinese Language Materials in the Digital Era: The Cataloging Standards and Practices in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong’. *Journal of Library and Information Science (USA/Taiwan)* 32 (1): 53–65.—Quite detailed, technical comparison. Some contextual comparative comments. Ameliorative motive, seeking to promote improved cooperation.
- Ryu, Hyeonsook, and Primož Južnič. 2017. ‘Comparison of Slovenian and Korean Library Laws’. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, December, 0961000617743543. doi:[10.1177/0961000617743543](https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000617743543).
- Vakkari, Pertti, Svanhild Aabø, Ragnar Audunson, Frank Huysmans, Nahyun Kwon, Marjolein Oomes, and Sei-Ching Joanna Sin. 2016. ‘Patterns of Perceived Public Library Outcomes in Five Countries’. *Journal of Documentation* 72 (2). doi:[10.1108/JD-08-2015-0103](https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-08-2015-0103).—Methodologically interesting quantitative study carried out in five countries.
- Williams, Marion Lucille. 2018. ‘The Adoption of Web 2.0 Technologies in Academic Libraries: A Comparative Exploration’. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, August, 0961000618788725. doi:[10.1177/0961000618788725](https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000618788725).—Compared academic libraries in Flanders and South Africa.
- Yu, Minjie, Youmeng Pan, and Nan Ding. 2016. ‘Analysis of the Knowledge Backgrounds of Library Directors from Top Universities in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan’. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science* 48 (4): 373–81. doi:[10.1177/0961000615623092](https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000615623092).

### ***International influence and innovation***

- Bertrand, Anne-Marie. 2009. ‘Inventing a Model Library “à La Française”’. *Libraries and the Cultural Record* 44 (4): 471–79. doi:[10.1353/lac.0.0107](https://doi.org/10.1353/lac.0.0107).—English-language account of the research reported in Bertrand (2010) below.
- Bertrand, Anne-Marie. 2010. *Bibliothèque publique et public library: essai de généalogie comparée* [Bibliothèque publique and public library: an essay in comparative genealogy]. Collection Papiers. Lyon: Esssib.— Very insightful, in-depth comparative analysis of French and American

- public library models: the modalities of their creation, relations with government, place in society, functions and functioning. Highly recommended.
- Byberg, Lis. 1993. 'Public Library Development in Norway in the Early Twentieth Century: American Influences and State Action'. *Libraries & Culture* 28 (1): 22–34. Detailed account of US influence, disseminated especially by US-trained Norwegian librarians.
- Chaplan, Margaret. 1971. 'American Ideas in German Public Libraries; Three Periods'. *Library Quarterly* 41 (4): 35–53. doi:[10.1086/619910](https://doi.org/10.1086/619910).—Historical account of American influence on German public libraries, divided into three phases, before the reunification of Germany.
- Rochester, Maxine Kathryn. 1990. *The Revolution in New Zealand Librarianship: American Influence as Facilitated by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in the 1930s*. Occasional Paper 50. Halifax: Dalhousie University.
- Witt, Steve W. 2013. 'Merchants of Light: The Paris Library School, Internationalism, and the Globalization of a Profession'. *Library Quarterly* 83 (2): 131–51. doi:[10.1086/669549](https://doi.org/10.1086/669549).—The short-lived Paris Library School was set up after WW1 by the American Library Association and exercised considerable influence on French librarianship.

### ***LIS development in developing and emerging countries***

- Brewster, Beverly J. 1976. *American Overseas Library Technical Assistance, 1940-1970*. Metuchen NJ: Scarecrow Press.—Traces the patterns of US post-WW2 overseas library technical assistance efforts which have been closely associated with foreign relations objectives.
- Constantinou, Constantia, Michael J Miller, and Kenneth Schlesinger, eds. 2017. *International Librarianship: Developing Professional, Intercultural, and Educational Leadership*. Albany NY: State University of New York Press.— 12 chapters dealing with experiences of US librarians involved in academic exchanges, international partnerships and training projects.
- Johnson, Ian M. 2016. 'International Assistance and National and Individual Contributions in the Development of Education for Library, Information and Archival Studies: Some Evidence from a Case Study'. *Libri* 66 (1): 3–12. doi:[10.1515/libri-2015-0110](https://doi.org/10.1515/libri-2015-0110).—Based on a detailed study that focused on the development of education for library, archive, and information services (LIS) in Iraq.
- Parr, Gail, and Hong Chung Nguyen. 2002. 'Western Theory -- Vietnamese Praxis: Four Years of Professional Collaboration in Vietnam as a Teacher Librarian. An Ethnographical Reflection'. In *School Libraries for a Knowledge Society*, edited by D Singh, A Abdullah, S Fonseca, and B de Rozario, 265–76. Seattle WA: International Association of School Librarianship.—Used ethnographic methods in a critical examination of long-held (Western) assumptions about the work of librarianship in non-Western contexts. Australian and Vietnamese authors.
- Sturges, R Paul, and Richard Neill. 1998. *The Quiet Struggle: Information and Libraries for the People of Africa*. 2nd ed. London: Mansell Publishing.—An influential regional survey, particularly important for its critical analysis of LIS development efforts and aid.
- Sturges, R Paul. 2014. 'Donations to Libraries: A Problem in International Cooperation'. In *Collaboration in International and Comparative Librarianship*, edited by Susmita Chakraborty and Anup Kumar Das, 17–27. *Advances in Library and Information Science (ALIS)*. Hershey PA: Information Science Reference. doi:[10.4018/978-1-4666-4365-9.ch003](https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-4666-4365-9.ch003).—Sceptical discussion of book donations.