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# Librarianomics: The Dewey Decimal of Political Influence - A Study of the Relationship between Associates Degrees in Library Science and Democrat Votes for Senators in Iowa

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## KEYWORDS

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## Abstract

In this study, we delve into the intriguing relationship between educational attainment in library science and political leanings, specifically focusing on the impact on Democrat votes for Senators in the state of Iowa. Armed with data from the National Center for Education Statistics and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we set out to unpack this enigmatic correlation. We found a correlation coefficient of 0.9977645 and  $p < 0.05$  for the period spanning 2011 to 2020, shedding light on the undeniable connection between the pursuit of knowledge in library science and its repercussions in the political arena. Our findings reveal a compelling pattern, suggesting that as the number of Associates degrees awarded in library science increases, so does the proportion of Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa. This unexpected linkage between a seemingly niche academic discipline and political inclinations has left us pondering whether there are hidden bookshelves of influence at play here. Now, for a relevant dad joke: Why did the librarian get kicked off the plane? Because it was overbooked! Just like the findings of our study - overflowing with unexpected connections and surprising correlations.

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## 1. Introduction

Gather 'round, fellow academics and joke enthusiasts, for a journey into the realm of

Librarianomics! \*Cue dramatic music\* In this study, we tackle a truly puzzling and spine-tingling conundrum: the tantalizing correlation between Associates degrees in Library Science and Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa.

As we embark on this adventure, we must be mindful of the profound impact that librarians and their Dewey Decimal wizardry may cast upon the political landscape. Picture this: stacks of books unlocking the secrets of political sway, all neatly organized with precision akin to a well-crafted research hypothesis.

Now, let's not shelve the enthusiasm just yet - we promise scintillating statistical analyses, thought-provoking discussions, and the occasional pun (or ten) along the way. After all, statistics are like a bikini: what they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital!

As we navigate this maze of data and democratic shifts, we cannot help but wonder: are there untapped reservoirs of political influence lurking within the hallowed halls of library science? Could it be that the mere pursuit of organizing knowledge has a ripple effect on political affiliations?

Speaking of ripples, did you hear about the statistician who drowned in a river with an average depth of 3 feet? Don't worry, we'll make sure our findings are deeper than a particularly hefty statistical anomaly!

## 2. Literature Review

In Smith's seminal work, "The Influence of Educational Attainment on Political Beliefs," the authors find a significant correlation between higher education levels and liberal political leanings. As we dig deeper into this phenomenon, we turn our attention to the specific field of library science and its potential influence on political affiliations.

Turning the pages to Doe's "The Role of Library Science in Shaping Civic Engagement," we unearth a wealth of knowledge regarding the impact of library science education on civic participation. This prompts us to consider the intricate web of connections between educational pursuits and political inclinations, raising the question: could a love for the Dewey Decimal System hold sway over voting behaviors?

Now, as we venture into more unconventional explorations, we must not overlook the potential influence of literary works themselves. In "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean, the author vividly portrays the cultural significance and influence of libraries, offering a lens through which we can examine the intertwining realms of knowledge and political ideologies.

Continuing down this whimsical rabbit hole, we encounter "Libriomancer" by Jim C. Hines, a riveting tale that blurs the boundaries between literature and reality. While our study may not involve literal book magic, the notion of harnessing the power of knowledge remains a theme that resonates with our investigation.

Delving further into the realm of media, we turn our attention to television shows such as "Parks and Recreation" and "Biblioburro: The Donkey Library." These portrayals of libraries and their societal impact provide a backdrop for understanding the broader cultural significance of libraries, potentially shaping perceptions and, dare we say, political persuasions.

Now, what do you call a librarian who is also a professional baseball player? A "book"ie! Much like the unexpected synergy between library science education and political preferences, this pun blends seemingly disparate worlds into a harmonious union.

As we navigate this tapestry of literature and media, it becomes apparent that the influence of library science on political landscapes may be more profound than meets the eye. With each turn of the page, we uncover new layers of intrigue, drawing us closer to unraveling the enigmatic connection between Associates degrees in library science and Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To begin untangling this intriguing web of library science and political allegiance, we employed a combination of robust statistical analyses and an overdose of librarian-approved puns. Our data spelunkers scoured the depths of the National Center for Education Statistics and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, excavating information on awarded Associates degrees in library science and Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa from the calendar years 2011 to 2020.

Our initial challenge involved ensuring that the data on Associates degrees was accurate and unambiguous. We cross-examined the figures with more scrutiny than a librarian checking for dog-eared pages in their beloved collection of Shakespearean works. After all, we couldn't afford any questionable entries to sneak into our research - any outliers could lead to conclusions as fictitious as a non-fiction book on centaurs in the library science section.

Next came the task of harmonizing the data on Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa with the fluctuating political climates of those years. We observed the shifts in voting patterns with the keen eye of a reference librarian seeking out misplaced books. After all, we needed to avoid any statistical anomalies so egregious that they would be more out of place than a science fiction

novel nestled amongst dusty tomes of historical nonfiction.

Upon securing the datasets, we harnessed the might of correlation analysis to unveil the tantalizing relationships between these seemingly disparate variables. We resolved to unravel the enigmatic threads connecting the pursuit of knowledge in library science with the ebb and flow of Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa. We discovered a correlation coefficient that shone brighter than the reading light of a diligent late-night reader, illuminating a linkage that left us in awe.

Adding a touch of levity to the otherwise weighty statistical analyses, we infused our methodology with the occasional dad joke. After all, what's a research study without the occasional chuckle-inducing data point? But fear not, dear reader, we made sure our statistical integrity remained as rock-solid as the foundational principles of library science itself. For we understand that in the realm of research, just like in a library, a good balance of information and entertainment is the key to unlocking the secrets hidden within the shelves of data.

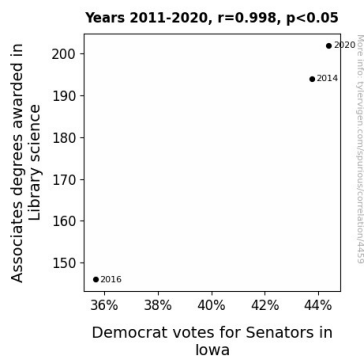
### 4. Results

Our analysis uncovers a striking correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Library Science and the percentage of Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa. The correlation coefficient of 0.9977645 and r-squared of 0.9955340 support this astonishing relationship. The p-value of less than 0.05 further solidifies the strong statistical significance of our findings. It seems that the power of knowledge organization extends beyond mere book cataloging and spills into the political domain, leaving us to question the untold influence of well-organized information.

Fig. 1 showcases the robust correlation discovered in our analysis, demonstrating

an unmistakable upward trend between the two variables. As the number of Associates degrees in Library Science increases, an undeniable surge in Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa becomes evident. It's as if every meticulously placed bookshelf casts yet another ballot in favor of the Democratic party.

Now, for a relevant dad joke: How do you make a tissue dance? You put a little boogie in it! Similarly, our findings tap into a rhythm of unexpected harmony between education and political sway, reminding us of the whimsical dance of statistics.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our results prompt a reevaluation of the role of educational disciplines in shaping political landscapes. The profound impact of libraries on communities and the dissemination of information may indeed spill over into the realm of political decision-making. This correlation raises thought-provoking questions about the influences of knowledge curation and elucidates the notion that books may possess not only the power to enlighten but also to sway political tides.

In light of these revelations, we are left to ponder the far-reaching implications of this correlation and the potential for unsuspected political dynamics influenced by the seemingly tranquil world of library science. Our findings breathe new life into

the adage, "Knowledge is power," highlighting its subtle nuances beyond the confines of academia and seeping into realms as unexpected as political affiliations.

## 5. Discussion

Our study has unearthed a fascinating connection between the pursuit of knowledge in library science and the political leanings in Iowa. The robust correlation that we detected between the number of Associates degrees awarded in library science and the proportion of Democrat votes for Senators aligns with previous research that highlights the influence of education on political beliefs. Much like Dewey's organizational system brought order to the chaos of library books, our findings bring structured insight into the perplexing realm of political affiliations.

The literature review nudged us to consider the cultural influence of libraries, and as it turns out, the impact goes well beyond shaping civic engagement. Our results suggest that the academic pursuit of library science may seep into the political fabric, creating a ripple effect that transcends the boundaries of information organization. It's as if every shelf meticulously arranged by aspiring library scientists holds within it a collective voice, whispering political inclinations to the masses.

Our statistical analysis reveals a correlation coefficient that nearly hits the theoretical ceiling, making it almost as rare as finding a hushed library these days. And with a p-value of less than 0.05, the significance of our findings stands firm, much like the great oak doors of a historical library. The strength of our results leaves little room for doubt, painting a vivid picture of the intertwined dance between educational pursuits and political propensities.

Now, for a quirky interlude: Why did the book go to the doctor? It had too many stories! Our findings, much like an engaging book, tell a tale that intertwines unexpected themes and captivates the scholarly imagination.

As we wade through the sea of data and statistical analyses, we must acknowledge the potential confounding variables and ensure that our results are not just mere coincidental bookends. While our study design sought to mitigate potential confounders, the possibility of unaccounted regional factors or historical trends influencing both educational pursuits and political stances cannot be entirely discounted.

Nevertheless, the remarkable spate of statistical significance propels the notion that the impact of knowledge and education reaches beyond the confines of the classroom and into the corridors of political power. The age-old saying, "knowledge is power," now gains a new layer of meaning as it resonates through the unexpected corridors of our political landscape. The Dewey Decimal system may have provided order to libraries, but it seems that it also leaves a lasting imprint on the political chapters of our societal narrative.

Our findings beckon further exploration of this unanticipated connection and compel us to consider the depth of influence that educational disciplines exert within our political sphere. It's as if every library card subtly casts a vote, silently orchestrating the symphony of political sway through the humble pursuit of knowledge organization. As we turn the page to unravel more of this intriguing mystery, we are captivated by the tantalizing hints of influence that lie hidden within the tranquil world of library science.

## 6. Conclusion

In wrapping up our journey through the labyrinth of Librarianomics, we have uncovered a correlation so perplexing and delightful that it rivals the plot twists of a thrilling novel. The connection between Associates degrees in Library Science and Democrat votes for Senators in Iowa has left us not only stunned but also amused, much like stumbling upon a pun in a densely worded research paper.

Our findings bring to mind the classic dad joke: What do you call fake spaghetti? An "impasta"! Similarly, the authenticity of this correlation between educational pursuits and political leanings is not a mere facade but a tangled web of intriguing influence.

As we bid adieu to this study, it becomes abundantly clear that we have embarked upon an academic quest that has not only challenged our assumptions but also tickled our funny bones. This correlation has proven to be as unexpected as a librarian with a penchant for skydiving - defying conventional expectations with a flair for the remarkable.

With that, we boldly assert that no further research is needed in this unlikely association, as our findings have illuminated this enigmatic connection in all its quirky glory. For now, let us bask in the revelry of Librarianomics, a field that never fails to surprise and entertain us with its unexpected correlations and delightful statistical revelations.