

Recent Doctoral Dissertations About The Bahamas and by The College of The Bahamas Faculty

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NOTES

There has been a surprising amount of research conducted in The Bahamas, about The Bahamas and by Bahamians. Thanks to the many databases now freely available on the Internet, much of this research can now be easily located. For example, a search of the WorldCat database (<http://www.worldcat.org>) using the keywords “Bahamas OR Bahamian” and filtering the results to “thesis/dissertation” produces a result of over 700 titles – the majority of which are theses at the doctoral and master’s levels.

Breaking down the results by year published produces some interesting figures. The first dissertation about the Bahama Islands was written in 1905. Throughout the first half of the 20th century approximately 50 more studies were conducted at both master’s and doctoral levels. Then in the mid-1970s there was an “explosion” of research about the Bahamas which seems to have continued unabated. Dissertations and theses written at all academic levels have numbered over 20 annually since then.

An analysis of the Bahamian-content theses by subject area or discipline is also quite revealing. The top three subject areas are Education, Geology/Earth Science and Biological Sciences followed by History, Economics and Business. One caveat about this “data”: only theses and dissertations that have been catalogued by participating university libraries and reported to the WorldCat database have been counted. As well, Bahamians writing dissertations on “non-Bahamian” topics, such as a dissertation in physics or chemistry, would not be included. However, the trends in the topics of research and scholarship about the Bahamas clearly reflect the priorities of a young country as well as the accessibility of its abundant natural resources for research.

Previous volumes of *The College of The Bahamas Research Journal* listed recent doctoral dissertations written by faculty of the College. The tradition continues but with a slight enhancement: the list now includes all doctoral dissertations written since 2002 that have been reported in the WorldCat database. In addition, dissertations written by current College faculty that had not been listed in earlier volumes of the journal have been included – they have been highlighted. Some of the dissertations on the listing are available in the College libraries. Please check the Library’s online catalogue on <http://cobweb.info.bs>.

Any errors or omissions will be corrected in the next volume!

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