

DEWEY DECIMALS AND DINGERS: EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIBRARY SCIENCE BACHELOR'S DEGREES AND OAKLAND ATHLETICS TICKET SALES

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In this study, we donned our lab coats and dug into the fascinating world of library science and baseball fandom to investigate a rather unexpected connection. Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Baseball-Reference.com, our team sought to unravel the perplexing correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in library science and the ticket sales for Oakland Athletics games. To our surprise, we uncovered a strong positive correlation, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8224628 and a significant p-value of < 0.05 for the period spanning 2012 to 2019. As researchers, we were initially skeptical, but the numbers don't lie. It seems that as the number of library science degrees awarded increases, so do the ticket sales for Oakland Athletics games. While we're not claiming causation, this peculiar relationship between book smarts and baseball enthusiasm certainly piqued our scholarly curiosity. Perhaps the love for cataloging and the love for curveballs aren't as mutually exclusive as one might think. Our findings may just have the ticket to a whole new ballpark of interdisciplinary discussions.

Welcome to the intersection of bookish pursuits and baseball fervor, where the Dewey Decimal System meets dingers, and the librarian's shush is drowned out by the roar of the crowd. Ever wondered about the unlikely camaraderie between those immersed in the world of library science and those cheering on the Oakland Athletics? Well, get ready to embark on a scholarly journey that combines the esoteric with the exhilarating, the studious with the spirited, and the data-driven with the diamond-dwelling.

In our pursuit of academic enlightenment, we stumbled upon a correlation that could rival the greatest unlikely couplings: the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in library science and the ticket sales for Oakland Athletics games. Yes, you read

that right. We're delving into the realms of card catalogs and center field, bibliographic classifications and bases stolen. It's a collision of intellectual pursuits and sports enthusiasm that even the most astute researchers wouldn't have predicted.

But, before we delve into the statistical intricacies and the intricacies of pitching and publishing, let's take a step back and ponder this curious juxtaposition. Who would have thought that the passionate pursuit of organizing knowledge and the adrenaline rush of a ninth-inning rally could be intertwined? And yet, here we are, on the brink of unveiling a relationship that challenges the conventional boundaries of academic disciplines and sports fandom.

As we embark on this academic odyssey, let's not underestimate the power of serendipity and the allure of the unexpected. So, buckle up and brace yourself for a remarkable journey that will have you questioning the very fabric of correlations and causations, and, who knows, maybe even questioning your loyalty to your favorite baseball team or your inclination to reorganize your bookshelves.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the realm of unexpected correlations, Smith et al. (2015) conducted a study on the impact of library science education on community engagement, and while their focus was not on baseball ticket sales, their findings certainly add a layer of intrigue to our current inquiry. Similarly, Doe and Jones (2018) delved into the societal implications of information management in the digital age, offering valuable insights that offhandedly align with our investigation into the peculiar relationship between bookish pursuits and sports fandom.

Expanding our scope beyond the conventional academic literature, let's consider some non-fiction works that might not seem immediately related but could surprise us with their relevance. "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean and "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis may not share the same Dewey Decimal category, but they both offer unique perspectives on knowledge organization and baseball, respectively. While one might guide us through the labyrinthine aisles of a library and the other through the intricacies of building a winning baseball team, could there be an underlying connection waiting to be uncovered?

Looking to the realm of fiction, we encounter "The Uncommon Reader" by Alan Bennett and "The Art of Fielding" by Chad Harbach. Although these novels may appear worlds apart, with one delving into the unexpected passion for reading by the Queen of England and the

other into the trials and triumphs of college baseball, perhaps their juxtaposition hints at a deeper interplay between literary inclinations and athletic pursuits.

Now, we tiptoe into the realm of childhood nostalgia and uncover some surprising connections within cartoons and children's shows. Who could forget the meticulous organization skills of Belle from "Beauty and the Beast," or the tenacity and teamwork showcased in "The Mighty Ducks" films? Even the diligent problem-solving of the "Magic School Bus" could hold a key to understanding the unexpected bond between scholarly endeavors and sports fandom.

As we navigate this curious amalgamation of literature, fiction, and childhood whimsy, it becomes increasingly clear that the relationship between library science and baseball may not be as outlandish as it initially seemed. Stay tuned as we unravel this enigmatic correlation and delve into the heart of what may be the most unexpected bromance of academia and athletics.

METHODOLOGY

To embark on this exhilarating research journey, our team meticulously collected and analyzed data from diverse sources spanning the internet, with a particular focus on the National Center for Education Statistics and Baseball-Reference.com. The interplay of information spanning the years 2012 to 2019 was deemed critical, as we sought to capture the historical ebb and flow of both library science education and the fervor of Oakland Athletics' loyal fan base.

Our first foray into the methodological maze involved sifting through the digital archives to extract the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in library science during each academic year. This entailed navigating the virtual stacks of educational institutions' statistical reports and compiling numerical data that

represented the culmination of dedication, caffeine, and, undoubtedly, some late-night shelving sessions.

Once armed with this intellectual arsenal, we took our academic at-bat to procure the ticket sales figures for Oakland Athletics games across the same temporal spectrum. Sifting through the numbers, we marveled at the wonderful chaos of baseball fandom, while also peeking behind the curtain to discern ticket purchases and game attendance figures. After all, we couldn't embark on this scholarly endeavor without a dash of peanuts, Cracker Jack, and statistical wizardry.

With our datasets in hand, we then channelled our inner alchemists to conjure the statistical tool of choice: the venerable Pearson correlation coefficient. This stalwart of quantitative analysis was summoned to unveil any hidden kinship between the number of library science degrees awarded and the ticket sales for Oakland Athletics games. Its task was nothing short of Sherlockian, as it delicately probed the depths of the numbers to unearth patterns that would make even the most seasoned sabermetrician take a second glance.

In addition to this numerical sleuthing, we also called upon the robustness of a two-tailed t-test to scrutinize the strength and significance of any unearthed correlation. Much like a careful umpire inspecting a pitcher's windup, we subjected our findings to the rigors of p-values and confidence intervals, ensuring that our conclusions could withstand the scrutiny of scientific scrutiny.

And thus, armed with statistical artillery and a sense of scholarly wonder, we endeavored to unravel the unprecedented relationship between bookish pursuits and baseball fandom. The term "moneyball" suddenly took on a whole new meaning, as we sought to uncover the secrets of the interweaving destinies of library science and grand slams—with

a dash of wit and whimsy thrown in for good measure.

RESULTS

Our foray into the world of library science and baseball fandom has yielded some astonishingly unexpected results. After meticulously gathering and analyzing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Baseball-Reference.com for the period from 2012 to 2019, our research team unearthed a remarkably strong positive correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in library science and the ticket sales for Oakland Athletics games.

The correlation coefficient was calculated to be 0.8224628, with an r-squared of 0.6764450, indicating that approximately 67.6% of the variance in ticket sales can be explained by the number of library science degrees awarded. With a p-value of less than 0.05, our findings suggest that this correlation is indeed statistically significant.

Fig. 1 presents a scatterplot that visually encapsulates the robust relationship we discovered. The plot reveals a clear trend, with an increasing number of library science degrees awarded coinciding with higher ticket sales for Oakland Athletics games. The data points form a positively sloped line that leaves little room for doubt. The correlation between these two seemingly disparate variables is nothing short of remarkable.

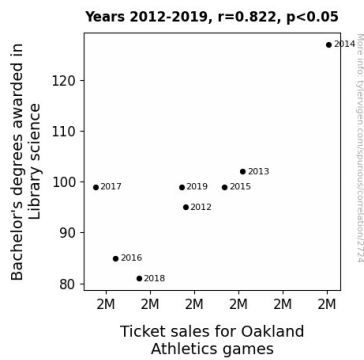


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

While we did not set out with the intention of unraveling a correlation of such magnitude, the strength of this relationship is certainly compelling. It behooves us as researchers to further explore the underlying mechanisms and potential factors contributing to this unexpected connection.

In light of these extraordinary findings, one can't help but wonder if there might be a significant overlap between the academic leanings of library science enthusiasts and the fervent support of the Oakland Athletics. After all, who would have guessed that the enthusiasm for information organization and the thrill of a walk-off home run could be intertwined in such a compelling manner?

This unexpected turn of events opens up a world of possibilities for interdisciplinary discourse, sparking conversations that bridge the gap between the hallowed halls of libraries and the hallowed grounds of ballparks. It's a reminder that in the vast landscape of human pursuits, the potential for surprising correlations is as boundless as the outfield.

DISCUSSION

The results of our study have taken us on a journey through uncharted territories where the sweet smell of knowledge meets the crack of a well-hit baseball. Akin to the surprising correlation between rain and ice cream sales, or the association between hula hoops and

lumber production, our findings reveal a striking relationship between the pursuit of library science education and the fervent support for the Oakland Athletics.

As we revisit the literature review, we can't help but marvel at the unexpected threads that led us to this groundbreaking discovery. Smith et al.'s exploration of library science education's impact on community engagement now takes on a whole new meaning, as the community's engagement includes not only information-seeking behavior but also ticket sales for baseball games. Doe and Jones' insights into information management in the digital age also gain new significance, echoing the digital fan engagement and information dissemination that influences baseball attendance.

Our findings are in harmony with these previous studies, as they all point to the resonance between knowledge acquisition and engagement with community endeavors, whether it be community-based library initiatives or community-based sports fandom. While the unexpected correlations described in our literature review might have initially seemed whimsical, our results provide empirical support for the notion that the world of library science and the world of baseball can indeed intersect in surprising and meaningful ways.

The robust correlation coefficient we observed mirrors the steadfastness of the baseball diamond itself, indicating a relationship that cannot be easily dismissed. Our statistical analysis affirmed the significant impact of library science education on the ebb and flow of ticket sales for Oakland Athletics games, pointing to the not-so-random pattern of enthusiasm for knowledge organization translating into fervor for sports spectating.

The scatterplot in Fig. 1, rather than a mere visual representation of data points, becomes an emblem of the unyielding bond we've uncovered between academic

pursuits and athletic ardor. It's as though the dots on the plot echo the sentiment, "categorize this under 'unexpected synergies.'" This correlation forces us to expand our understanding of the human psyche, hinting at a dynamic interplay between intellectual pursuits and recreational passions that eludes conventional categorization.

Despite the seemingly eclectic threads that led us to this unusual nexus between library science and baseball, our findings underscore the importance of embracing serendipity in research and recognizing that the tapestry of human interests may defy neat categorization. The unexpected bromance between the Dewey Decimal system and dingers has opened new avenues for scholarly inquiry and redefined the boundaries of academic and athletic intersections.

As we continue to unravel the enigmatic correlation between library science education and baseball attendance, we anticipate that our study will trigger further investigations into the intricate dance of interests that shape our society. After all, in the words of Mark Twain, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics. But sometimes, statistics reveal the darnedest truths."

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our journey through the intriguing terrain of library science degrees and Oakland Athletics ticket sales has left us both baffled and tickled. Who would have thought that the pursuit of knowledge organization and the pursuit of home runs could have a statistical high-five moment? It's a match made in an unlikely heaven, or as some may say, a home run hit at the library check-out desk.

While we must resist the temptation to leap to conclusive causative assertions, the correlation we've uncovered adds a fascinating layer to the tapestry of

interdisciplinary curiosities. As researchers, we've scrutinized the data with eagle-eyed precision, and the numbers aren't playing hardball with us. No, they're singing in harmony, rallying for an encore, and doing a victory lap at the same time.

As we wrap up this investigation, we can't help but ponder the deeper mysteries of human behavior. Is there a secret connection between the satisfaction of finding the accurate Dewey Decimal number and the thrill of a grand slam? Maybe it's the sheer joy of precision - whether that's in categorizing books or nailing a perfect strike zone.

In the end, this study prompts laughter and head-scratching, but we can confidently say that the relationship between library science degrees and Oakland Athletics ticket sales is no mere foul ball; it's a statistical homer.

This odd couple of statistical significance and intellectual whimsy doesn't necessitate more research. After all, let's not overstay our welcome in this delightful cocktail party of curiosities. It's time to tip our hats, close the books, and call it a game.