

A STUDY OF OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE THROUGH DOAJ

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Abstract *The present study tries to highlight the current status of open access journals listed in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) in the field of Library and Information Science. A total of 132 journals were consulted for the study. The article analyses country wise, year wise and language wise distribution of the journals. The paper also discusses the periodicity of the journals and index coverage area, etc. The paper reveals that open access publications is worthwhile as maximum numbers of journals belong to peer, blind and double-blind peer-reviewed categories. The present paper also helps to measure the publication pattern of various open access journals.*

Keywords: *Open Access Journals, DOAJ, Open Access Publication, Publication Pattern.*

INTRODUCTION

“There are several considerations while choosing a journal for publication- the appropriateness of the journal for the research, the status of the journal amongst peers, the likelihood of being accepted for the journal, the quality of the editorial process, the speed of publication, the openness of the journal and so on” (University of Cambridge, 2018). But, due to the increasing volume of publications and rapidly rising prices, selection of journals becomes difficult (Solomon & Bjork, 2012). The periodicity of the journals, publication format, either online, print or both, processing charges, language, country, editorial policy, and indexing, etc. are the factors to be considered before submitting the manuscript. Moreover, the following factors i.e. impact factor, reputation, readership, the speed of publication, and the quality of the peer review system of a journal, etc. are also important for deciding on where to submit the manuscript. Whereas; in recent time, ‘Open Access’ publication is one more crucial factor to be considered for the purpose as it seems to be doubtful for many scholars (Schroter, Tite and Smith, 2006). But in general, there are two most important factors which affect the submission decision as- ‘readership’ and the ‘quality’ of the journals. Readership means to reach the colleagues in the same discipline so that the work might have acknowledged and hopefully be cited, whereas the quality means peer-reviewed and impact factor of the journals (Swan & Brown, 1999; Swan & Brown, 2004).

Open Access to information and knowledge is an innovative mode of scholarly communication within the digital environment which aimed at the achievement of universal access to information and knowledge. Information access is becoming difficult due to an increase in cost and shrinking budget. Publishers’ policies make the scene bleaker for libraries and readers. The open access has brought in a welcome change and opened up new horizons for scholarly publishing and access (Hulagabali, 2012).

Information is essential components in academics, research, education, etc. as well as every sector of the society. The proliferation of scholarly information in various sources, increase in price at a rapid rate, made it difficult for libraries to access and sustain it. But Open Access Journals can relieve cost structures of the entire scholarly publishing enterprises (Jamdade & Jamdade, 2013).

The directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is hosted and maintained by Lund University, Sweden, with 10000 open access journals covering all areas of science, technology, medicines, social sciences, and humanities. DOAJ’s prime objective is to increase the visibility, accessibility, reputation, usage, and impact of quality, peer-reviewed, open access scholarly research journals globally, regardless of discipline, geography or language. On 10 July 2018 at 1.32 pm, there are 11,785 Journals, 8536 journals searchable at article level and 3185943 articles in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals, 2018).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Gaikwad and Khaparde (2016) reveal a study on a bibliometric study of LIS journals in DOAJ. A total number of 80 journals have been identified and selected for the study. They studied the periodic pattern, types of the institution on publishing body, full-text format, and document types, etc. Maity and Teli (2015) conducted a bibliometric study on LIS journals available in DOAJ and found that the maximum number of research productivity comes from Information and Communication Technology area followed by the Library and Society, the Library Association and then by Management. They also reveal that a single author's productivity in research articles is very high in number. This study helps to identify the research scenario and the lacking areas of the research. This study was limited to only 13 selected LIS journals in DOAJ database. Awasthi and Jaiswal (2015) conducted another bibliometric study and discussion of about only 72 journals registered in DOAJ. The author was unable to find the variables, through which they shortlisted only 72 journals out of more than a hundred journals in the study. The paper discussed country wise distribution and language wise distribution. Wankhede, Kakde, Ambedkar and Bhikaji (2015) also conducted a bibliometric analysis of the Urban Library Journal on DOAJ and revealed that categories of article distributions were remarkable in this research journal. Kumar (2013) made another bibliometric study on open access Journals in library science discipline in DOAJ. He consulted 128 journals for the purpose in the field of library and information science available in DOAJ. Kumar analyzed the contribution based on country, keywords, and frequency, etc. The study indicates that there is only one open access journal available in the field before 1990. He also reveals that only 19.04 % journals have their EISSN and almost one-fourth journals were published on half yearly basis. Thavamani (2013) conducts another study on Directory of open access journals (DOAJ): a bibliometric study of Library and information science, and analyze the subject distribution, interdisciplinary aspects, country wise origin, language-wise and publication fee, etc. Kotti analyzed total 151 journals available in DOAJ. Jamdade and Jamdade (2013) conduct a study on a bibliometric study of the directory of open access journals: special reference to library & information science. Total 137 journals have been examined and analyses were based on subject heading, language, and country. Solomon and Bjork (2012) conduct a study and examined that 26 % of the authors had published articles in journals that had impact factors listed in the JCR 2009. The majority of articles published in open access journals without article processing charges (APC). Nagaraj, Obaiha, and Thomas (2009) examined 107 Journals in DOAJ and 39 repositories in ROAR from India. The paper reveals that most of the open access publication is being done with open source software, i.e. Open Journal System (OJS).

OBJECTIVES

- To check the periodicity of Library and Information Science Journal publication in DOAJ.
- To find the country wise Journal contribution in DOAJ.
- To find the open access publication platform.
- To find the language wise distribution.
- To check the full-text publication format.
- To find out whether there are any publication charges.
- To find the article review policy.
- To check the article indexing coverage area.

METHODOLOGY AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

The data was collected from the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) websites (<http://www.doaj.org>) covering the period from 2003 to 2018. One hundred thirty-two Library and Information Science Journals have been selected for the current study. The individual journal data has been retrieved and tabulated in MS- Excel format. The data organized, calculated, analyzed, and presented by using simple arithmetic and statistical methods in order to provide the analysis and interpretation.

DOAJ provides accurate information about open access journals published from different countries. There are many open access journals published in the field of Library and Information Science. But all of them are not registered with DOAJ. There were 151 journals listed with DOAJ in the LIS field in the year 2013 which was shrunk to 135 in the year of 2014-15. But later in the beginning of 2018, there were only 132 journals listed in DOAJ. It is because of lack of compliance with DOAJ standards. No attempt was made to discover and include such journals in this study. Moreover, sub-standard and irregular journals were also removed from the DOAJ. Hence, the author felt to regenerate the study, which gives a clear and complete picture of LIS journals listed in DOAJ.

DATA ANALYSIS

Full-Text Publication Media

Mode of publication is directly related with audience need. Print media publication delayed in speedy information dissemination. On the other side e-publication ensure speedy communication of information. There are total 132 Journals available in DOAJ, out of which 69 Journals (52.30%) published in print form, whereas 63 Journals (47.70%) are published in an online mode. Moreover out of 132, only 44 journals (33%) are being published in both print and

online version. It clearly indicates that still print journals are covered a large market in the journal publication. But, online publication is not far behind. Soon online journal publication may outpace the print media (Table 1).

Table 1: Full-Text Media

S. No.		No of Journals	%
1	Print Journals	69	52.30 %
2	Online Journals	63	47.70 %
	Total=	132	100.00 %
3	Both Format (Print & Online)	44	33 %

Journal Frequency

Publication of journals varies from one place to another. It ranges from daily, weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, annual, bi-annual and so on. The Table 2 depicts that Bi-Annual frequency publication with 47% dominates over the all other kinds of periodicity followed by Quarterly (23%), Annual (11%) and Tri-Annual (10%) publication. It reveals that Biannual and Quarterly frequency cover more than 70% publication periodicity. On the other hand, rest of other frequencies conclude only rest of 30%.

Table 2: Journal Frequency

S. no.	Frequency	Total number of Journals	%	Cumulative %
1	Annual	14	10.60	10.60
2	Annual/ Bi-Annual	02	01.51	12.11
3	Bi-Annual	62	46.96	59.07
4	Bi-Annual/ Semi-Annual	01	00.75	59.82
5	Bi-Monthly	03	02.27	62.09
6	Four Monthly	01	00.75	62.84
7	Monthly	03	02.27	65.11
8	Quarterly	31	23.48	88.59
9	Semi-Annual	02	01.51	90.1
10	Tri-Annual	13	09.84	99.94
	Total	132		100%

Publication Platform/ Host/ Aggregator

Open access publication cannot be possible without a suitable platform. Most prominent and suitable host for the purpose should be able to manage and publishing scholarly communication. It must be intelligent enough to reduce publishing costs and other traditional processes. The good publication host should be compatible with both the parties, i.e. editors and users. Table 3 depicts that the Open Journal

System (OJS), open source software is the first choice to publish the open access journals worldwide. 77 journals (58.33%) out of 132 are being published at OJS platform. On the other hand, 33 journals (25%) are being published on an individual or institutional host. National Taiwan University and SciELO Brazil host 2 journals each in the field of Library and Information Science. Be-press digital commons is another choice for 4 publishers. Surprisingly 14 journals didn't mention the information of their publication host.

Table 3: Publication Platform/ Host/ Aggregator

S. no.	Host/ Aggregator	Number of Journals adopted	%
1	Individual or Institutional Host	33	25
2	National Taiwan University	02	1.51
3	SciELO Brazil	02	1.51
4	Be-press Digital Commons	04	3.03
5	OJS	77	58.33
6	Not Available	14	10.60
	Total =	132	100 %

Country wise Distribution

A Nation's research publication argued of about its progress and knowledge wealth. A Nations's progress directly depends

on its research and development activities. Therefore, the country like India must look into and do the needful to encourage the LIS R&D activities. Table-4 clearly indicating that USA ranked first with the 24 Journal's publication which

covers 18.18% of the total open access publication in the LIS field in DOAJ followed by Brazil with 16 journals (12.12%) and Indonesia with 11 journals (8.33%) second and third position respectively. Spain catches the fourth position in the ranking list with Poland at fifth position. India holds the 9th position with the only single journal listed in DOAJ which is far behind from many small countries.

Table 4: Country-wise Distribution

S. no.	Rank	Country	Total No. of Journals	%
1	1	USA	24	18.18
2	2	Brazil	16	12.12
3	3	Indonesia	11	8.33
4	4	Spain	9	6.81
5	5	Poland	7	5.30
6	5	UK	7	5.30
7	6	Germany	4	3.03
8	6	Switzerland	4	3.03
9	7	Canada	3	2.27
10	7	Cuba	3	2.27
11	7	Italy	3	2.27
12	7	Romania	3	2.27
13	7	Taiwan	3	2.27
14	8	France	2	1.51
15	8	Argentina	2	1.51
16	8	China	2	1.51
17	8	Colombia	2	1.51
18	8	Costa Rica	2	1.51
19	8	Iran	2	1.51
20	8	Korea	2	1.51
21	8	Netherland	2	1.51
22	8	Turkey	2	1.51
23	8	Venezuela	2	1.51
24	9	Norway	1	0.75
25	9	Singapore	1	0.75
26	9	Austria	1	0.75
27	9	Chile	1	0.75
28	9	Croatia	1	0.75
29	9	Egypt	1	0.75
30	9	India	1	0.75
31	9	Japan	1	0.75
32	9	Pakistan	1	0.75
33	9	Portugal	1	0.75
34	9	Slovenia	1	0.75
35	9	South Africa	1	0.75
36	9	Ukraine	1	0.75
37	9	Lithuania	1	0.75
38	9	Uruguay	1	0.75
		Total	132	100 %

Year wise Distribution

Year wise journal publication helps to understand the publication barriers and research trends in a specific domain. Table-5 shows that with the inception of DOAJ in 2003 in 2012, a small number of journals have been added to it. Suddenly, in the year 2013, a large number of journals has been listed. By ignoring the year of 2014, the same kind of image is being depicted in the year 2015 and 2016. Surprisingly, in the year 2017, a boom take place and 35 journals have been added into the DOAJ.

Table 5: Year-wise Publication

S. No.	Years	No. of Journals Added	%	Cumulative %
1	2003	5	3.78	3.78
2	2004	3	2.27	6.05
3	2005	2	1.51	7.56
4	2006	6	4.54	12.1
5	2007	6	4.54	16.64
6	2008	5	3.78	20.42
7	2009	2	1.51	21.93
8	2010	7	5.30	27.23
9	2011	5	3.78	31.01
10	2012	8	6.06	37.07
11	2013	14	10.6	47.67
12	2014	1	0.75	48.42
13	2015	13	9.84	58.26
14	2016	12	9.09	67.35
15	2017	35	26.51	93.86
16	2018*	8	6.06	100%
	Total	132	100 %	

*Up to May 2018

Language Wise Distribution

There are thousands of languages spoken and written worldwide. But to communicate with the global audience, the person must be known to most prominent language in journal publication. Table-6 depict that the English language is the prominent language for scholarly communication at the global level. The English language ranked first, followed by the Portuguese at second and Indonesian at third rank. Spanish hold the fourth rank with Polish at the fifth rank in the ranked list. There are 27 journals which published in more than one language. But, there is no publication made available in Indian languages.

Table 6: Language wise Distribution

S. No.	Rank	Language	Total	%
1	1	English	76	57.57
2	2	Portuguese	8	6.06
3	3	Indonesian	7	5.30
4	4	Spanish	6	4.54
5	5	Polish	5	3.78
6	6	Chinese	1	0.75
7	6	French	1	0.75
8	6	Persian	1	0.75
9	7	Multilingual	27	20.45
		Total =	132	100 %
		Indian Languages	Nil	

Full-Text Format

There are basically four main formats in which electronic journals are available. ASCII, PDF, E-Text, and HTML. These formats are mostly preferred by the publishers as per their convenience. Table 7 shows that PDF format ranked first followed by PDF/HTML and PDF/HTML/XML ranked second and third in the ranked respectively. No other full-text format is in choice for open access publication. The majority of publishers choose PDF/HTML/XML format for their open access publication. Table 7 clearly depicts that 40 journals have adopted more than one format for their publication.

Table 7: Full-Text Format

S. No.	Rank	Publication Format	No. of Journals	%
1	1	PDF	92	69.69
2	2	PDF/ HTML	16	12.12
3	3	PDF/ HTML/ XML	7	5.30
4	4	HTML	4	3.03
5	5	PDF/ HTML/ e-PUB	3	2.27
6	5	PDF/ XML	3	2.27
7	6	HTML/ XML	2	1.51
8	6	PDF/ HTML/ e-PUB/ XML	2	1.51
9	7	PDF/ e-PUB	1	0.75
10	7	PDF/ HTML/ e-PUB/ Mobi	1	0.75
11	7	PDF/ HTML/ Mobi	1	0.75
		Total=	132	100 %

PUBLICATION CHARGES

Article processing charges (APC) seems to be a barrier for an individual researcher without having any institutional support. He may suffer in publishing their valuable contribution to the world. Table 8 reveals that there are no publication or processing charges for article publication in 130 open access journals listed in DOAJ. There are only two journals which ask for APC from the scholars. This is another strong point that large numbers of journals don't charge for their publication which proves their credibility in journal publication

Table 8: Publication Charges

S. NO.	Publication Charges	No of Journals	%
1	No	130	98.50
2	Yes	02	1.50
	Total	132	100.00 %

Peer Review

Scholarly peer review is the process of subjecting an author's scholarly work, research, or ideas to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the same field, before a paper describing this work is published in a journal, conference proceedings or as a book. Table 9 depicts that with 75 numbers, the majority of journals are double blind peer reviewed. It ranked first in the ranked list, followed by peer review and blind peer review at second and third rank respectively. It clearly indicates that all the journals listed in the DOAJ are highly reviewing category. It means all the journals are worthwhile to publish a manuscript for a scholar.

Table 9: Peer Review

S. No.	Rank	Review	No of Journals	%
1	1	Double Blind Peer Review	75	56.81
2	2	Peer Review	23	17.42
3	3	Blind Peer Review	21	15.91
4	4	Editorial Review	09	6.82
5	5	Open Peer Review	02	1.52
6	5	Not Available	02	1.52
		Total=	132	100 %

Time lag for Publication

Table-10 depicts that 32 journals took on an average 11-15 weeks for submission to publication. Whereas 27 journals took 6-10 weeks and 24 journals took 16-20 weeks for the said purpose. Therefore; the majority of journals (83) took 6-20 weeks for publication. The interested author must prepare accordingly before submitting the manuscript to an individual journal.

Table 10: Time Lag for Publication

S. No	Weeks	No of Journals	%
1	1-5	16	12.12
2	6-10	27	20.45
3	11-15	32	24.24
4	16-20	24	18.18
5	21-25	13	09.84
6	26-30	10	07.57
7	31-35	02	01.51
8	36-40	02	01.51
9	41-45	02	01.51
10	46-50	01	0.75
11	51-55	01	0.75
	Not available	02	0.75
	Total=	132	

Indexing

Listing of journal articles in different databases makes it more visible. Authors checked all 132 journals individually and found that all of them are indexed in various national and international databases. Most of them are indexed in their local, regional or national databases which were very difficult to list out and made some logical study. Therefore; we had shortlisted on the basis of the databases normally searched in the Indian region. As Table 12 depicts that 30 journals are indexed in EBSCO Host, 25 journals indexed in Ulrich's, 27 indexed in LISA and 8 in Pro-quest databases. On the other hand, due to the open access publication, all of them (100%) are being indexed in DOAJ, Google Scholar, Sherpa and other databases.

Table 12: Indexing

S. No.	Indexing Platform	No. of Journals
1	EBSCO Host	30
2	Proquest	08
3	Ulrich's	25
4	LISA	27
6	DOAJ/ Google Scholar/ Sherpa/ and others	132

DISCUSSION

On the basis of above analysis, authors are able to comment as follows-

Availability of sufficient funds is the main issue to publish a print journal, especially for institutional publications. However, electronic publications ensure speedy dissemination of information and remove the financial barrier that is the demand of recent time. If it is not possible for all the publishers, then they must have an online version of their publications along with the print version. Table-1 clearly showed that out of 132 journals, 44 journals are print in both the format.

Publication frequency of a journal is directly concerned with the amount of information is being published. Due to the long gap in issue publication, lots of information remains unpublished within the required time span. Table 2 proves that 70% journal publication frequency is Bi-Monthly and Quarterly. It has to be taken care and frequency must not be a long wait for a scholar.

OJS, being open source software, helps to set up a new open access journal, thereby increase the productivity and visibility of Indian research at the global level. Open Journal System (OJS) is a multilingual system, allowing journals to publish in a variety of languages. This will be of great help to countries like India where a significant amount of literature, scholastic information is publishing in various languages. This will attract the non-English speaking Indians to computers and the internet. Such peoples would be able to contribute their scholarly thoughts and innovative ideas to the rest of the world.

It is observed that the USA holds the first Rank at the global level with a total number of 24 open access Journals. Brazil was in the second position with 16 open access journals and Indonesia at third rank with 11 open access journals in the field of library and information science. India is a big country and must increase his share in open access publishing through DOAJ. There is a number of LIS Journals from India, which are open access, but not able to meet the DOAJ standard except Annals of Library and Information Studies. The Indian publisher must increase their standard. Moreover, standardize journals should be made open access to make global access.

English is the most common communication language for scholarly communities in the field of Library and Information Science. Still, there is a possibility to communicate in the local language for the betterment of our local language known scholars, especially who are weak in the English language due to any of the reasons?

DOAJ is a community-curated online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-

reviewed journals, and it is not limited to particular language or subject areas. It covers almost the universe of knowledge. All the journals and their articles distinguished using the Library of Congress Classification. All the data are freely available. Being open access, it increases the visibility, which makes the journals by promotion their usage and impact. All the LIS professionals, students, faculties, and scholars should browse the DOAJ and access the freely available articles in their respective fields. It is, suggested that they should publish their research work in open access journals for wider visibility of their research work and for greater impact factor and citation index, etc.

Everybody wants to protect his/her intellectual work. The PDF format is the best solution for publisher and scholars both. Around 115 Journals from LIS field using the PDF along with HTML and XML format to protect their research. Free availability of PDF has also made it popular among the open access publishers and others.

Impose of article processing charges (APC) over the scholars is defended by many writers and publishers with different arguments. Moreover, the publication of 130 peer-reviewed and high-quality standard journals from LIS discipline make it convenient for scholars that they must select the open access journals for their research publication. The institutional publication can do much better in this movement.

Majority of Journals are blind and double-blind peer-reviewed category. This made it more authentic and reliable source to get new information for the scholars. Moreover, the time spent in the peer-reviewed process leads to delayed publication. It should have been taken care of by the publishers. The journal indexing in various databases is directly concern with its greater visibility that tends to increase in impact factor of literature. DOAJ listed journals from the LIS field indexed in different databases at local, regional, national, and international level. Therefore; any successful journal should have been an index in the various platform.

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