

# Glance at the Perception towards Open Access Scholarly Communication: A Meta-Synthesis of the Literature

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## Abstract

This study aims to precise meta-synthesis review of literature on perception towards Open Access (OA) in recent years and to assess the innovative trends in scholarly communication. A search was conducted on Google Scholar on January 11, 2024. 71 peer-reviewed articles published during 2004–2023 were selected which met the select criteria. From the analysis of the findings of published literature, five perceived factors were identified and discussed: (i) Innovative trends in Scholarly Communication; (ii) Awareness of OA Scholarly Communication; (iii) Use of OA Scholarly Communication; (iv) Motivational factors towards OA; and (v) Hindrance factors towards OA. On the basis of perceived factors, the essence on the perception towards OA from researchers, publishers and research funders were summarised. Generally, researchers have positive perception towards OA scholarly communication. Majority of the researchers depended on OA resources and believed that OA outlets are valuable to publish their work. Despite the fact that OA is seen to have numerous favourable benefits, but it increases a few concerns. Therefore, OA has brought significant change in perspective towards OA scholarly communication. This study contributes to current research on OA Scholarly Communication through offering theoretical advances related with the use and adoption of OA scholarly communication.

**Keywords:** Scholarly Communication, Open Access (OA), Gold OA, Green OA, Perception, Meta-Synthesis

## Introduction

Scholarly communications were utilised as a channel of communications by researchers and academic institutions. The serial crisis had become a major concern for academic community (Panda, 2021). To overcome this problem, a new scholarly communication model has been emerged known as Open Access (OA). OA initiative is a major drastic crusade that promotes free accessibility to academic literature on the web, eliminate the cost & authorisation limitations and assured the comprehensive conceivable disseminations of research. OA is an instrument by which research work is freely disseminated on the internet (Das, 2015; Eriksson & Nystrom, 2008; Haider, 2007; Joshi et al., 2012; Montgomery & King, 2002). OA resources are freely accessible on internet, so that user can search, read, copy, disseminate, download and print the articles without any fee. OA resources are not obliged particularly to OA journals, yet rather it may diverse in such forms as: OA thesis & dissertations, open courseware, OA repositories, Institutional Repositories (IRs), open e-book, open sources softwares, OA subject gateways and open databases, etc. (Harnad, 2008; Prince & Saravanan, 2015; Suber, 2010).

There are three roads to OA: *Green road*: refers to the act of uploading an author's version of an article into an institutional or subject-based repository, making it freely accessible for everyone, it is also called *Self-Archiving*. *Gold road*: means providing free and perpetual access to final version of an article after its publication. *Hybrid*

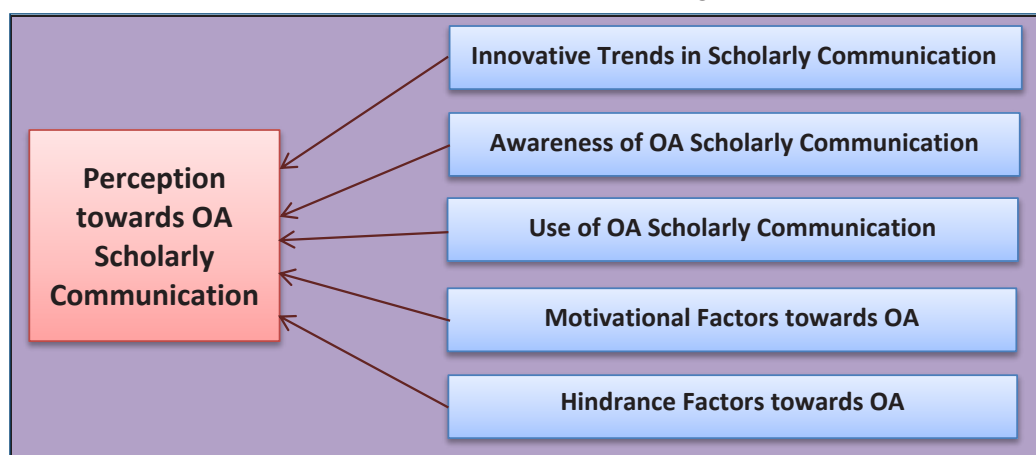
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*road*: is an additional OA route where papers published in subscribed journals, but OA is provided to these articles by payment of an ‘Article Processing Charges’ (APCs) are paid by the author/ institution to the publishers (Bjork et al., 2013; Dorta-Gonzalez et al., 2017; Funamori, 2015; Laakso, 2014; Leeuwen et al., 2015; Suber, 2007; Torres-Salinas et al., 2016; Zia, 2021).

In the previous years, various studies have examined the different aspects of OA publishing in India and other countries. However, amazingly, no study was discovered which has analysed the perception towards OA scholarly communication. Henceforth, there is a need to fill this gap and lead a study on perception among the researchers, publishers, and research funders. This study aims to determine the perception towards OA journals

publishing; what the significances of OA publishing were; what inspires the researchers for OA accessibility and usage; how it reflects their decision for publication; self-archiving and deposit their research work in OA platforms. This study aims to provide a meta-synthetic literature review on perception towards OA in recent years and to assess the innovative trends in scholarly communication. To achieve the mentioned goals, this study is comprised of five important predictors, i.e., (*innovative trends in scholarly communication, awareness of OA scholarly communication, use of OA scholarly communication, motivational factors towards OA, and hindrance factors towards OA*). Basically, the perceived factors anticipated to have an impact on the perception towards OA scholarly communication as shown in Fig. 1.



**Fig. 1: Perceived Factors**

## Methodology

To efficiently examine and synthesise the results of past studies on perception towards OA scholarly communication, a search was conducted on Google Scholar on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Keywords were used for the search such as: perception towards OA scholarly communication, innovative trends in scholarly communication, awareness of OA scholarly communication, use of OA scholarly communication, motivating factors, and hindering factors towards OA. This process resulted in 101 documents from Google Scholar. The study only focused on articles that were published during the time period of 2004–2023 (a period of 20 years). Subsequently, articles were manually included after thoroughly examining the title, abstract, and main content of all articles (71) to ensure that they

fulfilled the inclusion criteria to achieve the goals under study. These articles were read, summarised, and the accompanying classifications of data were noted:

- Author(s) and Year;
- Research Objectives;
- Participants;
- Data Collection Instruments;
- Major Findings; and
- Country.

In the following stage, statements that clearly portrayed relevant issues to the perceived factors were acknowledged within each article. After that, all the information of the articles had been implicitly, examined and coordinated into perceived factors. A summary of empirical studies on perception towards OA is given in Table 1.

**Table 1: Detail of Empirical Studies on Perception towards OA Scholarly Communication**

<i>Author(s) and Year</i>	<i>Research Objectives</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Data Collection Instruments</i>	<i>Major Findings</i>	<i>Country</i>
Mangai & Ganesan (2023)	Examined researchers' perception towards OA resources.	Research scholars of Bharathidasan and Alagappa Universities of Tamil Nadu.	Questionnaire	Majority of research scholars aware of few OA resources to a large extent and afraid to redistribute the sources as they fear of copyright issues.	India
Tmava (2023)	Analysed Faculty Perceptions towards OA Repositories.	Faculty members and Researchers of Camegie Tier One public research university.	Questionnaire	Around half of the faculty support the OA principles and are willing to share their work in OA, a little over half of faculty seem to be unfamiliar with the OA goals and the purpose of OA Repositories.	U.S.A.
Aharony & Hadad (2022)	Investigated the researchers' Intentions, and awareness towards OA publishing.	202 Israeli researchers.	Questionnaire	Researchers showed low awareness of OA key concepts, which was significantly associated with the tendency not to publish in OA.	Israel
Nazim et al. (2022)	Analysed India's OA publishing trends and policy perspectives.	ROARMAP enlisted policies.	Bibliometrics	9 research organisations, 5 research funders have adopted OA policies in India.	India
Danekar & Lihitkar (2021)	Investigated the user perception of OA resources.	84 Faculty staff of technology in Shivaji University, Kolhapur.	Questionnaire	Faculty members believed that OA Resources beneficial for researchers.	India
Doro (2021)	Examined the perceptions of faculty members regarding IRs.	10 faculty members of University of Western Ontario.	Questionnaire	Faculty members noticed increased readership via Google Scholar to the IRs.	Canada
Ganesan & Mangai (2021)	Examined the perception towards OA resources.	Researchers of Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu.	Questionnaire	Researchers use OA resources due to ease accessibility.	India
Halevi & Walsh (2021)	Explored the faculty members' perception towards APCs for OA articles.	Faculty members of Icahn school of Medicine.	Questionnaire	Most of the faculty think that APCs are necessary to maintain OA publications.	U.S.A.
Kakai (2021)	Analysed the factors affecting OA in IRs.	IRs of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.	Interview	Researchers have positive about OA IRs.	East Africa
Matonkar & Dhuri (2021)	Explored the use and awareness of OA resources.	Faculty members and students of Ponda education Society College.	Questionnaire	More than 70 percent are eager to know about OA resources.	India
Akparobore & Omoisekejimi (2020)	Examined the awareness of faculty members towards IRs.	572 lecturers in seven federal Universities in South Nigeria.	Questionnaire	The level of awareness of IRs among faculty members is high.	Nigeria

<i>Author(s) and Year</i>	<i>Research Objectives</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Data Collection Instruments</i>	<i>Major Findings</i>	<i>Country</i>
Chakraborty et al. (2020)	Evaluated the perception of researchers towards OA resources.	20 researchers in various disciplines in India.	Questionnaire	The researchers showed their positive perception towards OA resources.	India
Greussing et al. (2020)	Explored the obstacles of OA publishing.	Biomedical and health informatics researchers.	Interview	Quality and APCs are main obstacles in OA models.	Germany
Hanton et al. (2020)	Examined the perceptions of clinical and research fellows towards OA publishing.	Researchers of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.	Interview	Fellows recognised the ability of OA to support in dissemination.	U.S.A.
Bwalya et al. (2019)	Assessed the perception towards OA journals from lecturers and researchers at the University of Zambia (UNZA).	Lecturers and researchers at the University of Zambia (UNZA).	Questionnaire	UNZA management never recognised articles published in OA journals during promotion of lecturers and researchers.	Zambia
Nobes & Harris (2019)	Investigated the perception and experiences of researchers towards OA.	507 researchers from developing countries and associated with INASP's Author AID venture.	Questionnaire	Researchers have positive perspective on OA.	Low & Middle Countries
Nunda & Elia (2019)	Explored the use of IRs.	P.G. students in Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences.	Questionnaires & Interviews	Most of the respondents were affected by visibility and data sharing of IRs.	Tanzania
Williams et al. (2019)	Examined the perception of agricultural researchers toward OA publishing.	Researchers of Ithaka.	Interview	Researchers believed that lack of money, trust & time is the common impediments which needs to be address and resolve.	U.S.A.
Bala et al. (2018)	Explored the use of OA resources.	Researchers of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.	Questionnaire	Easy accessibility and convenience is the main motivation to use OA resources.	India
Boukacem-Zeghmouri et al. (2018)	Assessed the perception towards OA publishing.	Researchers of mathematics, biology, and computer science.	Interview	While submitting a paper, researchers consider prestige, quality and status of journal.	France
Rao & Rao (2018)	Analysed India's OA policies and mandates.	Revision of OA policies & mandates in India.	Review	DST and DBT made it essential to keep a repository for government-funded research results and publish them in OA journals.	India
Tripura & Gayan (2018)	Examined the perceptions of OA Publishing.	Faculty members and researchers of Tripura University.	Questionnaire	Majority of the respondents were aware about OA.	India
Wani & Wani (2018)	Analysed the use of OA journals.	Researchers of physics from top 3 Universities in U.S.A.	Citation Analysis	OA journals were appropriately used by the researchers of these institutions.	U.S.A.

Author(s) and Year	Research Objectives	Participants	Data Collection Instruments	Major Findings	Country
Ashraf & Haneefa (2017)	Investigated the use of OA resources.	Researchers of University of Calicut, Kerala.	Questionnaire	OA venues used by many researchers for their research work.	India
Ayeni (2017)	Analysed the perception of OA journals.	P.G. students of Nigerian Universities.	Questionnaire	OA journals have brought a change paradigm in scholarly communication.	Nigeria
Gunasekera (2017)	Explored the attitudes of social science about OA publishing and IRs.	All the faculty members of Peradeniya University.	Questionnaire	Only 48 percent had knowledge about OA publishing.	Sri Lanka
Iqbal & Ali (2017)	Assessed the use of OA resources.	Library users of Puducherry Universities.	Questionnaire	Among OA resources, electronic theses and dissertations were mostly consulted by researchers.	India
Nagaraj & Bhandi (2017)	Explored the perception of OA journals among physics researchers.	Researchers of Physics in Raman Research Institute and Indian Institute of Science.	Questionnaire & Interview	Main concerns of researchers were quality and impact factor of the OA journals before publishing.	India
Sheikh (2017)	Analysed the awareness and use of OA resources.	Faculty members of Islamabad higher Institutions.	Questionnaire	Most of the faculty members use OA journal for their research work.	Pakistan
Tenopir et al. (2017)	Explored the feasibility of gold OA.	Academicians of four major research Universities in North America.	Questionnaire	On average, academicians tend to hold more conventional and negative opinions.	North America
Bashorun et al. (2016)	Explored the motivational factors for adoption and usage of OA publishing.	University staff of Nigeria.	Questionnaire	Attitude, awareness and performance expectancy were the significant motivational factors for adoption and usage of OA.	Nigeria
Mainwaring (2016)	Outlined the U.K. publishing background.	Social and political sciences publishers.	Review	Publisher showed eagerness to experiment in the OA.	U.K.
Musa (2016)	Analysed the hindrance factors of OA resources.	Librarians in Federal Universities.	Questionnaire	Lack of ICT infrastructure, low level of awareness, unstable power supply were considered as hindrance factor of OA.	Nigeria
Schopf et al. (2016)	Presented the opinion and behaviour regarding OA.	Researchers of French National Research Center.	Questionnaire	Director's positive perception towards OA.	France
Shuva & Taisir (2016)	Analysed perceptions and use of OA journals.	Faculty members of University of Dhaka.	Web-based Questionnaire	Faculty members prefer Gold OA which possess prestige and impact	Bangladesh
Fox & Hanlon (2015)	Recognised main barriers to OA.	Researchers of Africa.	Questionnaire	The perceptibility of IRs and OA journals in Africa remains low.	South Africa
Guthrie et al. (2015)	Examined the published research access and peer review.	Review of publishing documents, literature, argument and experiential reflections.	Review	Different publisher allowed pre-print version of article for self-archiving.	U.K.

<i>Author(s) and Year</i>	<i>Research Objectives</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Data Collection Instruments</i>	<i>Major Findings</i>	<i>Country</i>
Kaba & Said (2015)	Investigated the perceptions towards OA resources.	Faculty staff at Al Ain University of Science & Technology (AAU) in the U.A.E.	Web-based Questionnaire	Most of the faculty have a positive perception towards OA resources.	U.A.E.
Kassahun & Nsala (2015)	Evaluated the awareness towards OA resources.	Librarians of private higher education institutions in Botswana.	Questionnaire	Very few librarians were aware of OA.	South Africa
Mammo & Ngulube (2015)	Examined the use and perception of academics towards OA.	Researchers of seven selected Universities in Ethiopia.	Questionnaire	Majority of the academics were aware of OA journals.	Ethiopia
Prince & Saravanan (2015)	Determined the perception of Higher Institutions towards OA resources.	Arts & Science, Engineering, Education Colleges & University of Kanyakumari.	Questionnaire	OA resources were used by the researchers for their course work.	India
Santhi & Nagarajan (2015)	Evaluated the use of OA resources.	Faculty staff of 11 engineering colleges in Puducherry.	Questionnaire	Faculty mostly use e-Journals, e-theses & dissertations, e-books, and open courseware.	India
Yang & Li (2015)	Evaluated the faculty perception toward OA.	Faculty awareness of the Texas A & M University.	Questionnaire	Faculty members were more engaged and interested in OA publishing.	U.A.E.
Laakso (2014)	Determined the publisher perception towards green OA.	Scopus bibliographic database with journal publishers' policies.	Review	Commercial publishers enable 82 percent of their articles to be self-archived.	U.S.A.
Lwoga & Questier (2014)	Analysed the significant factors that motivate the acceptance and usage of OA.	Researchers and Library Staff of Tanzanian health sciences Universities.	Questionnaire	Facilitating conditions, behavioural intention, and copyright concerns were the main factors which determined the use of OA.	Tanzania
Togia & Korobili (2014)	Examined the perception towards OA journals.	16 articles published by the researchers in 2002.	Meta-synthesis of the empirical literature.	Researchers hold positive perspective towards OA journals.	U.S.A.
Spezi et al. (2013)	Explored the researchers' perception towards OA repositories.	European researchers from selected disciplinary areas.	Questionnaire	Author's self-archiving behaviour, standards and disciplinary cultures.	Europe
Khalili & Singh (2012)	Determined the motivational factors for adoption of OA journals.	Iranian medical researchers.	Questionnaire	Attitude, academic rank, social impact, aims, facilitating conditions and familiarity were significant key factors.	Iran
Sandhu & Jalandhar (2012)	Assessed the use of OA resources.	Engineering students in Punjab.	Questionnaire	Majority of the students had used OA journals rather than IRs or self-archived materials.	India
Khalili (2011)	Analysed the experience towards OA.	367 staff of public medical Universities of Iran.	Questionnaire	Researchers use OA services more as readers than authors.	Iran

<i>Author(s) and Year</i>	<i>Research Objectives</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Data Collection Instruments</i>	<i>Major Findings</i>	<i>Country</i>
Madhan & Arunachalam (2011)	Explored the use of high impact OA journals by Indian Researchers.	BioMed Central (BMC) journals, Acta Crystallographica and PLoS journals.	Review	India modestly contributes in PLoS journals.	India
Mischo & Mary (2011)	Examined the perception towards OA.	Faculty Members of Engineering.	Questionnaire	Faculty members had worried over the author's pay and hesitance to self-archive in the college IR.	U.S.A.
Creaser et al. (2010)	Discussed the researchers' perception towards OA repositories.	3000 users of 4 center groups in Europe.	Questionnaire	Majority of the researchers had deposited their articles in OA repository in the past five years.	Europe
Gbaje (2010)	Examined hindering the adoption and transition of closed journals to OA journals.	Researchers of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.	Questionnaire	Lack of awareness towards OA and copyright concern were the main hindrance of OA journals.	Nigeria
Gul et al. (2010)	Determined the researcher's perception and perception towards OA movement.	84 researchers of Science and Social Science faculties.	Questionnaire	Majority of the researchers showed an eagerness to publish their work in OA journals.	India
Kim (2010)	Investigated the motivational factors towards Green OA.	17 Carnegie doctorate Universities with DSpace IRs.	Questionnaires & Interviews	The dependent variable positively related to self-archiving culture, academic reward, altruism, and technical skill.	U.S.A.
Abrizah (2009)	Investigated the reasons for depositing in IRs.	14 faculties, institutes and academics in Malaysia.	Questionnaire	Plagiarism and copyright issues were the major restrictions of self-archiving.	Malaysia
Tedd (2009)	To explore the concept of OA publishing IRs.	IRs at Aberystwyth University, and Wales.	Review	There have been major developments in the area of OA IRs.	U.K.
Waaajers (2009)	Determined the brief overview of global trends in OA.	Stakeholders.	Review	OA needs a coordinated approach of stakeholders in the research.	Denmark
Eriksson & Nystrom (2008)	Examined the perception of Three Researchers towards OA Initiative.	Researchers of different institutions of Sweden.	Review	Researchers showed their enthusiasm towards OA.	Sweden
Deoghuria & Roy (2007)	Examined the researcher's perception towards OA.	Researchers of different age groups from various Universities in Kolkata.	Questionnaire	Many researchers believed that publishers were not enough to stop OA in developing nations like India.	India
Fullard (2007)	Assessed the concerns of OA.	Policy makers and local researchers of South Africa.	Questionnaire	Researchers would not frequently choose OA journals.	South Africa

<i>Author(s) and Year</i>	<i>Research Objectives</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Data Collection Instruments</i>	<i>Major Findings</i>	<i>Country</i>
Park & Qin (2007)	Examined those factors which decide researchers' eagerness to publish and use OA.	Academics of Syracuse University.	Interview	The researchers believed that quality content quality was an important factor.	U.S.A.
Warlick & Vaughan (2007)	Identified motivating factors for OA publishing.	Prolific OA authors of the Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.	Interview	Free access for everyone is the significant motivational factor for OA.	U.S.A.
Wojciechowska (2007)	Analysed the self-archiving more specifically institutional OA archive i.e. "Hyper Article en Ligne" (HAL).	128 research lecturers and researchers of 12 research centres of French National Network of Mathematics Libraries (RNBML).	Questionnaire	13.3 percent filed no less than one refereed article on Hal and 16.4 percent recorded no less than one refereed article on ArXiv.	France
Antelman (2006)	Examined the self-archiving behaviour of authors.	Authors of 6 disciplines of social sciences.	Questionnaire	Self-archiving policies of publishers doesn't impactful on self-archiving practices.	U.K.
Klang (2006)	Explored the effects of copyright law.	All University libraries in Sweden.	Interview	All the respondents expressed concerns about copyrights.	Sweden
Schroter & Tite (2006)	Measured the journal authors' perceptions of OA and author pays publishing.	Those researchers which submitted their research papers in Archives of Disease in Childhood and Journal of Medical Genetics and British Medical Journal (BMJ).	Questionnaire	66 percent would prefer to submit in subscribed journals than OA journals.	U.K.
Nicholas et al. (2005)	Evaluated the perception of researchers to publishing in OA journals.	Institute for Scientific Information (ISI).	Questionnaire	OA still a minority with just one out of ten researchers had published in OA journals.	U.S.A.
Schroter et al. (2005)	Signified the researchers' perception towards OA.	28 researchers who submitted to the BMJ in 2003.	Questionnaire	Researchers were strongly support OA.	U.K.
Delamothe & Smith (2004)	Investigated the perception of publishers towards OA.	Scholarly Journal Publishers.	Review	OA brought rapid changes in academic publishing.	U.K.

## Findings of the Study

### Country-Wise Distribution of Articles

A total of 71 selected articles were published from 23 countries. With respect to the scattering of selected

articles, the most productive country is India with (18) articles, followed by U.S.A. (12), U.K. (7) and Nigeria (5) articles. Fig. 2 shows that France and South Africa were published (3) articles respectively. Europe, Iran, Sweden, Tanzania, and U.A.E. published only (2) articles, while the rest of the countries were published only (1) article.

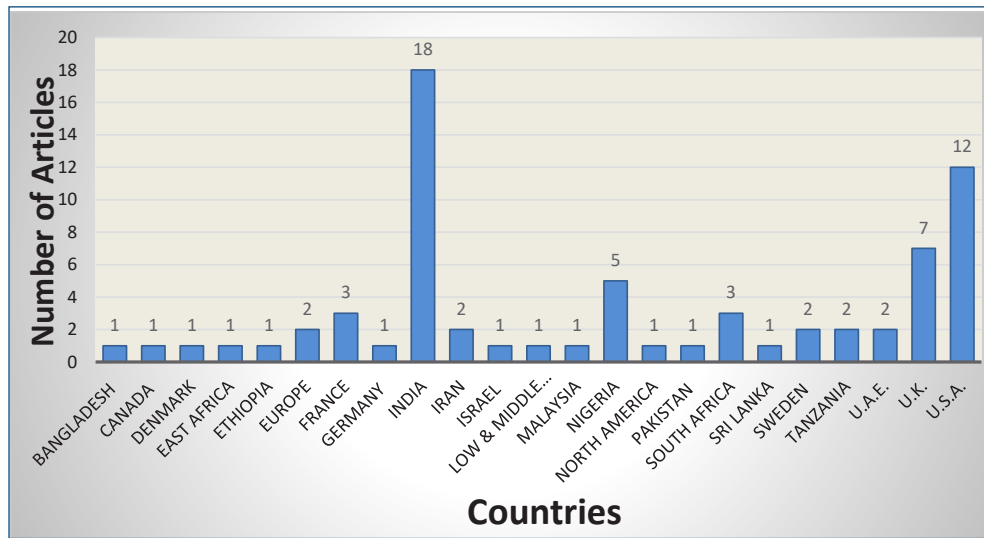


Fig. 2: Country-Wise Distribution of Articles

### Year-Wise Distribution of Articles

Fig. 3 clearly shows that the highest number (8) of scattered articles were published in the year 2015 followed by the year 2017 which published (7) articles and year 2021 were published (6) articles. Significantly, in terms of

published years, (5) articles each were published in 2018, 2016, 2007 years; (4) articles each were published in 2020, 2019, 2010 years; (3) articles each were published in 2014, 2011, 2009, 2006 years; and (2) articles each were published in 2023, 2022, 2012, and 2005 years, while the (1) article each were published in remaining years.

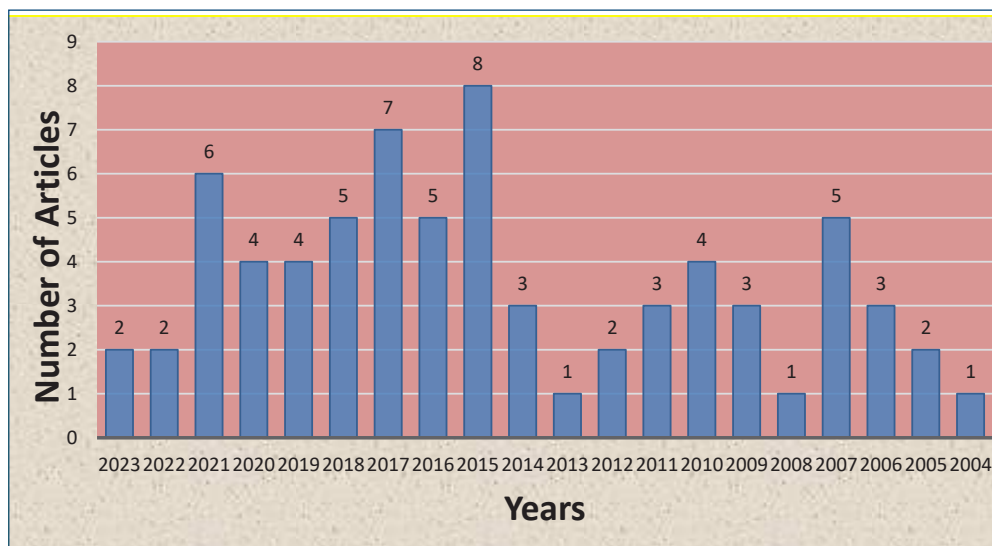


Fig. 3: Years-Wise Distribution of Articles

## Discussion on the Perceived Factors

This section discusses the perceived factors that influence on the perception towards OA scholarly communication, which comes from these empirical studies as follows:

### Innovative Trends in Scholarly Communication

OA have brought new trends in the accessibility and utilisation of scholarly communication (Ayeni, 2017). The principle of free access was the main motivation to the researchers towards OA publishing (Togia & Korobili, 2014). OA journals (Gold OA) provide equal access and made effective for the people who were not economically light to approach subscribed journals (Ayeni, 2017; Nicholas et al., 2005). Mostly researchers agreed that OA journals have huge ability to publish more comprehensive research work (Schroter & Tite, 2006). OA journals improved access of information and provide accessibility of research papers to the developing countries (Togia & Korobili, 2014). OA repository (Green OA) is an online platform that store and disseminates research outlets of an institution and provides it freely accessible for anybody to use and disseminate.

Significantly, researchers depended on OA resources and believed that OA outlets valuable to publish their work (Ashraf & Haneefa, 2017; Deoghuria & Roy, 2007; Gul et al., 2010). A study by Fullard (2007) explored that different groups of stakeholders in South Africa thought that OA publications were extremely beneficial. Another study by Williams et al. (2019) explored the trend of OA is data sharing that give insight into the common priorities and concerns of researchers. It is tied to the land grant mission and local and global outreach, with particular concern for sharing with researchers in the developing world. Some studies Deoghuria & Roy (2007) and Fullard (2007) also supposed that researchers were completely support the concept of OA which improves the access for developing nations. Significantly, many researchers believed that huge publishers were not enough to stop OA when developing nations like India climbed on the OA fleeting trend.

### Awareness of OA Scholarly Communication

The utilisation of OA is extremely dependent on users being aware with OA scholarly communication.

Significantly, almost everyone knew about OA and agreed with that OA provide more prominent accessibility to academic activities. Various studies Bwalya et al. (2019), Creaser et al. (2010), Lwoga and Questier (2014), Mangai and Ganesan (2023) and Yang and Li (2015) revealed that the majority of the faculty members were aware with OA journals in their respective field. Another study by Kaba and Said (2015) also explored that faculty members of AAU hold a high level of awareness towards OA resources. However, some of the faculty members of Peradeniya University in Sri Lanka were never heard about the term "OA". Most of them learnt about the IRs via, web searches (Gunasekera, 2017). These findings align with a study by Mammo and Ngulube (2015) which revealed that majority of researchers in higher learning organisations of Ethiopia became aware of OA journals through web. A study by Kassahun and Nsala (2015) also indicated that librarians in private higher learning institutions in Botswana improve their awareness on recent OA movements by reading current professional literature and by attending workshops & conferences.

Whereas, some studies Musa (2016) and (Sheikh, 2017) identified that majority of the respondents had low level of awareness towards OA terminology and initiatives. Another study by Khalili (2011) analysed that the limited amount of medical researchers in Iran knew about the OA terminology i.e. Pub Med Central (PMC) and Subject-based Repositories. Although, other studies Aharony and Hadad (2022) and Schroter et al. (2005) found that the lack of awareness about OA journals were the main reason for not submitted in OA mode. Several studies Chakyarkandiyil (2020), Matonkar and Dhuri (2021), and Prince and Saravanan (2015) emphasised to raise awareness and organise training programs which helps to enhance familiarity of OA resources effectively. So, the prospective researchers must be skilled to use OA resources admirably for their scholarly exercises. Thus, it should be noted that the awareness towards OA among researchers is probably essential. Those aware of the benefits of OA resources may use them.

### Use of OA Scholarly Communication

OA resources are those through which anyone can be accessed at any time without any restraint. It is an effective means of information exchange globally.

Such resources are useful for the academic community and researchers, due to their easy availability and convenience. Several studies Ashraf and Haneefa (2017), Bala et al. (2018), Danekar and Lihitkar (2021), Iqbal and Ali (2017), Kaba and Said (2015), Prince & Saravanan (2015) and Santhi and Nagarajan (2015) analysed that OA resources were extensively used by the researchers for their course work, preparing seminars/conferences, research output, project work, teaching, update subject knowledge and writing papers/articles. This is in accordance with the results of other study by Sandhu and Jalandhar (2012) which examined that majority of the engineering students in Punjab regularly read OA journals and those articles which deposited in the personal website for their exams. In a past few years, a number of studies Ashraf and Haneefa (2017), Danekar and Lihitkar (2021), Prince and Saravanan (2015), and Santhi and Nagarajan (2015) revealed that many researchers use other OA resources includes: ETDs, Shodganga, DOAJ, DOAB, NDLTD, ERIC, Swayam, NPTEL, e-Learning Platforms, Plagiarism Detection Tools and Vidyaniidhi for their academic activities.

A study by Kaba and Said (2015) found that the majority of the faculty members published at least 3 articles in OA mode, during the year. Moreover, research fellows of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre also published in Gold OA (Hanlon et al., 2020). An appropriate use of OA journals by the physics researchers from the top three universities in U.S.A. were examined by Wani and Wani (2018) who evaluating the citation analysis of OA journals in the Ph.D. theses awarded during 2014. Results of the study shows that '*Living Reviews in Relativity*' OA journal was frequently used by the researchers. Moreover, among the top ten OA journals, in terms of citation count '*Journal of High Energy Physics*' was highly cited. These findings align with a study by Madhan and Arunachalam (2011), which revealed that BMC journal was the world's leading OA journals publisher in the fields of medical research and biology. Noticeably, researchers use OA journals, due to easy access and get whole information at one place (Bala et al., 2018; Mangai & Ganesan, 2023).

Significantly, apart from OA journals, the use of other OA resources was not very encouraging as many studies Gul et al. (2010), Sandhu and Jalandhar (2012) and Sheikh (2017) indicated that majority of users had used

OA journals rather than deposited their articles in IRs and self-archived their research work. These findings contradicts the results of other study by Antelman (2006) which determined that the researchers in the field of social sciences were self-archiving at a huge rate, especially the researchers of Library and information science have significantly self-archived their research work. Moreover, Wojciechowska (2007) indicated that majority of the researchers of RNBM deposited their papers on personal websites. This study also revealed that 18.6 percent had filed at least one preprint on "*Hyper Article en Ligne*" (HAL) while, 33.6 percent recorded at least one preprint on ArXiv. Another study by Spezi et al. (2013) examined that researchers prefer IRs over subject repositories of self-archiving. Nevertheless, there is still a lot of room for improvement by using institutional assistance and awareness efforts.

### Motivational Factors towards OA

For the new model of scholarly communication to thrive in the future, it is essential to understand the motivating factors that influence researchers' choices on the adoption of OA. Several factors have been identified as motivational factors in researchers' adoption and use of OA resources. Journal status, quality, accessibility, career benefit, topical relevance, cost, and ease of use were identified as significant factors that influence researchers' eagerness towards Gold OA (Park & Qin, 2007). Moreover, Warlick and Vaughan (2007) considered free access as a motivating factor for OA publishing. Another study by Lwoga and Questier (2014) determined that the use of OA resources by faculty members of Tanzanian Health Sciences Universities significantly influenced by extrinsic benefits and professional recognition.

Facilitating factors are considered motivating factors that attract researchers to use OA resources for disseminating and accessing scholarly information. For instance, Lwoga and Questier (2014) identified that facilitating conditions, copyright concerns and behavioural intention were the main factors determining the use of OA. These findings corroborate with the results of the research conducted on faculty members in Nigeria by Bashorun et al. (2016), which explored that facilitating conditions, awareness, internet self-efficacy, performance expectancy and

attitude significantly influenced the adoption and use of OA resources. Another study conducted on medical researchers of Iran by Khalili and Singh (2012) also determined that facilitating conditions, intention, attitude, social influence, academic rank, awareness, and type of the Universities were significantly influence on OA publishing. A study by Nunda and Elia (2019) analysed that visibility and information sharing were those factors that most influence the use of IRs in the higher learning institutions of Tanzania. This is in accordance with the results of a previous study by Kim (2010), who investigated that self-archiving culture, altruism, copyright concerns, concern about additional time & effort, age and technical skills, and perceptions of no harmful impact of self-archiving on tenure and promotion motivate faculty members to participate in self-archiving. OA resources encourages researchers for OA publishing which not only maximises its accessibility but also increases its research impact.

### **Hindrance Factors towards OA**

Hindrance factors refer to obstacles and barriers that deter researchers from the adoption and use of OA. In several studies, Boukacem-Zeghmouri et al. (2018), Deoghuria and Roy (2007), Gbaje (2010), Kakai (2021), and Musa (2016) researchers believed that lack of awareness towards the capabilities of OA were the main hindrance of a transforming from subscribed journals to OA journals. Another major hindrance in use of OA resources are copyright concern and plagiarism (Abrizah, 2009; Gbaje, 2010; Kakai, 2021; Klang, 2006; Mangai & Ganesan, 2023; Tmava, 2023). Other reasons that might hinder of OA were the publishers' policy, pre-print culture, trust of readers, preservation, and lack of infrastructural facilities (Boukacem-Zeghmouri et al., 2018; Deoghuria & Roy, 2007). Musa (2016) indicated that low capital, poor ICT infrastructure, unreliable power supplies, technical problems, inactive internet connection, lack of familiarity towards OA, inexperienced staff and insufficient advocacy for OA were considered as hindrance factor of OA. Furthermore, Fox and Hanlon (2015) recognised that use of Gold and Green OA by African researchers remains low, due to the lack of adequate training and the incapability of national organisational & technical structures to support OA. Whereas, Greussing et al. (2020) identified that APCs and quality concerns are the

main obstacles for OA mode.

### **Perceptions towards OA Scholarly Communication**

On the basis of perceived factors, the essence on the perception towards OA scholarly communication were summarised into three perspectives such as given below:

#### **Researchers**

OA to scholarly publication is used by the wide variety of researchers and they have a different perception which have huge effect on the utilisation of OA resources (Ayeni, 2017). Khalili (2011) investigated that the researchers considered OA resources more as readers than authors. A study by Nicholas et al. (2005) found that compared to researchers in Australia, the U.S.A., and Western Europe, researchers in Eastern Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa were twice as likely to engage in OA publishing. However, Schopfel et al. (2016) analysed that directors of the French National Research Center were more supportive to green OA than gold OA. These finding contradicts the results of other study by Creaser et al. (2010), which indicated that researchers of medical sciences, life sciences, and interdisciplinary studies were more likely to prefer Gold OA.

Numerous studies stated that researchers had a positive perception towards OA scholarly communication (Akparobore & Omosekejimi, 2020; Bwalya et al., 2019; Eriksson & Nystrom, 2008; Kaba & Said, 2015; Park & Qin, 2007; Prince & Saravanan, 2015; Schopfel et al., 2016; Togia & Korobili, 2014; Yang & Li, 2015). Furthermore, many researchers believed that OA resources free of charge, easy to use, beneficial for their research purposes, good sources of information, adequate standards of quality, acceptable for tenure, increased readership, visibility, and citations (Akparobore & Omosekejimi, 2020; Bwalya et al., 2019; Chakyarkandiyil, 2020; Doro, 2021; Eriksson & Nystrom, 2008; Ganesan & Mangai, 2021; Mammo & Ngulube, 2015; Nagaraj & Bhandi, 2017; Park & Qin, 2007; Shuva & Taisir, 2016; Tripura & Gayan, 2018; Togia & Korobili, 2014; Yang & Li, 2015). These finding contradicts the results of other studies by Bwalya et al. (2019), Chakyarkandiyil (2020), Eriksson and Nystrom (2008), Hanlon et al. (2020), Mammo and

Ngulube (2015), Nagaraj and Bhandi (2017), Schroter and Tite (2006), Shuva and Taisir (2016), Tripura and Gayan (2018), Tenopir et al. (2017), and Yang and Li (2015) which found that many researchers perceived that lack of credibility, not always peer-reviewed, unreliable, less prestige, low impact factor, low quality, low priority, non-clarity of copyright policy, unawareness, inappropriate OA journals in respective field as a significant disadvantages for OA resources.

Researchers perspectives should be mulled over by the key partners of OA publishing and different prerequisites forced on them by the concept of academics and the procedures for progression compels them to publish in subscribed journals (Eriksson & Nystrom, 2008; Togia & Korobili, 2014). Researchers supported OA publishing, but few had intentionally submitted to OA journal (Creaser et al., 2010), while selecting journals to publish their articles, researchers didn't rate OA as a standard but instead impact, quality, reputation and acknowledgment (Boukacem-Zeghmouri et al., 2018; Nagaraj & Bhandi, 2017; Nobes & Harris, 2019; Schroter et al., 2005). Mostly researchers were against APCs and would hesitate to submit to OA journals which functional under APCs (Togia & Korobili, 2014; Shuva & Taisir, 2016). Most of the researchers strongly disagreed that authors should pay APCs (Halevi & Walsh, 2021). And they did not comprehensively publish in author-pays OA journals and had restricted plans to do so in the future (Mischo & Mary, 2011). However, most of the researchers showed an eagerness to submit their research work in OA journals and deposited in IRs (Creaser et al., 2010; Deoghuria & Roy, 2007; Gul et al., 2010; Gunasekera, 2017; Spezi et al., 2013; Yang & Li, 2015).

## Publishers

OA initiatives brought changes and challenges in the environment of the publishers. Traditional publishers were beginning to shake off some of their initial alert towards OA due to the difficulties of research quality administration and the problems of escaping imperative and critical information and its effective distribution (Delamothe & Smith, 2004; Guthrie et al., 2015; Mainwaring, 2016). From a publisher's perspective,

majority of them agreed that OA is less profitable than the subscription-based model (Laakso, 2014). Gold OA publishers charge a "publication fee", "author charge" or "APC" (Nagaraj & Bhandi, 2017; Waaijers, 2009). After getting it, they publish the article rapidly in OA journals by means of a "Creative Commons License" that expects that users should precisely credit the substance to the authors. Although, OA publishing originates in the digital world; article copies are accessible at a printing on-demand surcharge. At that point they convert this control into revenue through subscriptions, licenses, copyright clearance fee, and different conditions for reuse (Waaijers, 2009). Moreover, after Green OA had reached a specific critical amount, publishers would give in, cease the subscriptions model overall, and change to the OA model. Most of the publishers required copyright agreement task at various points in the review procedure relying upon the journal, and cover diverse or several versions. Prominently, some authors agreed that OA journals do not have a clear copyright policy (Nagaraj & Bhandi, 2017). Numerous copyright agreements were silent or uncertain about self-archiving rights and on the topic of version. Significantly, some publishers did not permit any self-archiving, while mostly permit authors to archive a pre-print version of their article (Antelman, 2006). In light of the SHERPA/RoMEO maximum publishers permitted post prints are disseminated as green OA (Laakso, 2014).

OA publishing trends and policy perspectives in India were analysed by Nazim et al. (2022). Findings of the study discovered that numerous institutions in India had been updated their 18 ROARMAP policies at least 4 times. 9 research institutions with 2 sub-units, 5 research funders with 2 sub-units have adopted OA policies in India. These findings align with a previous study by Rao and Rao (2018) which reviewed OA policies & mandates of India. As per the study findings, DST and DBT made it fundamental for government-funded research work deposited in a repository and published in OA journals. A couple of organisations in India have adopted OA policies & mandates. The results of these progressions are sweeping in their extension and possibly critical in their future effect. Hence, publishers should emphasise the significance of observant moral sequences and cultivating critical new commitments to information and society.

## Research Funders

Funders might be much more inspired to OA mandate after the Houghton studies of the economic impacts on a national scale of a transfer from the subscription-based publishing to OA publishing (Tedd, 2009; Waaijers, 2009). Basically, there are two scenarios for the cost savings on the creation and estimate the financial advantages of improving the information accessibility in the case of OA:

- *Ceteris Paribus*: The first accepts that the current subscription-based framework remains perfect and that extra expenses are brought about to “free up” the articles, either by paying more to their publisher or for Green OA (Waaijers, 2009).
- *Net Cost*: This scenario is to exchange the Toll Gate framework by the Gold OA. This produces the financial advantages of OA as well as makes the publishing framework itself less expensive, subsequently bringing the well of the two worlds (Waaijers, 2009).

Many research funders mandated for publication of research findings in OA journals such as:

- Horizon 2020 programme of European Commission;
- National Research Funders in Canada, UK, Sweden, Norway and Australia;
- Wellcome Trust (UK), European Research Council, and National Institutes of Health (USA); and
- The Academy of Finland promotes OA (Antelman, 2006; Mainwaring, 2016; Waaijers, 2009).

OA policies of Research Funders on Sherpa/Juliet Service are:

- OA assets in numerous colleges support the payment for (APC);
- No examination of consistence to this strategy; and
- 60% of European freely supported research articles to be accessible under OA (Laakso, 2014; Mainwaring, 2016; Waaijers, 2009).

## Conclusion

OA has brought significant change in perspective towards OA scholarly communication. Researchers had been

utilising OA journals as an alternative access model to the traditional subscription-based model. The free access for everyone is a significant motivational factor and lack of awareness towards the capabilities of OA is the main hindrance. Therefore, OA publishers, governments, academic institutions should assure the launching of OA repositories and mandate policies with suitable confirmation scales in OA publications and increase the dissemination of research work. They should also promote awareness that consideration on OA issues, for instance, copyright executive to help the researchers to comprehend the legitimate ramifications of self-archiving their research outputs. Moreover, libraries can afford to lead OA publishing efforts, and some economic challenges can be overcome and OA publishing can be made a reality. This study contributes to current research on OA scholarly communication through proposing theoretical & conceptual advances related to the use and adoption of OA scholarly communication.

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