

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to the letter, “Indian scientific literature and Scopus database”

Prof. B. K. Sen has raised the valid point about the limitation of the study “Science in pre-independent India: a scientometric perspective” published in *Annals of Library and Information Studies* 2017, 64(2), 125 – 136^{1,2}. We are aware about the limitation of Scopus® and have mentioned this in the last paragraph of Methodology section.

According to Scopus® content coverage guide of 2013, “Scopus currently has 49 million core records, 28 million records back to 1996 (of which 78% include references) 21 million records pre-1996 which go back as far as 1823 (abstracts included where available, but no references)”³. The document further pointed that Scopus® is gradually incorporating more records in their database. Hence, Scopus® data was chosen for the study.

WoS incites Journal Citation Reports (JCR) covers only 104 Indian journals (in 2016) and Scopus® covers 458 Indian journals (in 2016). Database of International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) maintained by National Science Library, NISCAIR (ISSN issuing agency from India) shows that every year about 2,500-3,000 ISSNs are assigned to the serials/ journals published from India⁴. Even today, vast amount of Indian scholarly literatures is out of

coverage from the broad scope of the two prominent citation databases. However, almost all scioentometrics/ bibliometrics studies from India are based on these two databases.

Reference

1. Sen B K, Indian scientific literature and Scopus database (Letter to the Editor), *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 64 (3) (2017) 209
2. Patra S K and Muchie M, Science in pre-independent India: a scientometric perspective. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 64(2) (2017) 125 – 136.
3. SciVerse Scopus Content Coverage Guide Available at <https://files.sciverse.com/documents/pdf/ContentCoverageGuide-jan-2013.pdf> (Accessed on 25th November 2017)
4. Mahesh G, The Indian ISSN Conundrum. *Current Science*, 112 (3) (2017) 452-453

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