

## *Short Communication*

### An ethical question of LIS profession

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The database of *Indian Library Science Abstracts, 2006-2010* reveals several cases where the authors have published the same article in different journals. The article highlights the cases where such unhealthy practice has been followed by the authors. Suggests means whereby such practices can be prevented.

**Keywords:** LIS research; LIS journals; Ethics

#### Introduction

While scanning the *Indian Library Science Abstracts, 2006-2010* it was found some articles have been published in more than one journal by the same

author or authors. Some examples are given in the table below.

The above is not an exhaustive list and highlighting the problem is not to judge the journal or authors involved in the publication of duplicate or triplicate articles. Nevertheless, it is essential to highlight the problem, hypothesize the underlying reasons and discuss the ways and means to address the problem.

It can be presumed that in the anxiety to get their articles published in one journal or the other rather quickly, authors tend to make multiple submissions to different journals. This is an unhealthy practice. Authors should select a journal after due consideration and should not make multiple submissions of the same article. Journals should take an undertaking from the authors that the manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere. It is seen in the

Sl. no.	Title	Journal 1	Journal 2	Journal 3
1.	Evaluation of websites used by social scientists of North East India	<i>Library Herald</i> , 48 (1) (2010) 55-65.	<i>IASLIC Bulletin</i> , 55 (1) (2010) 43-49.	
2.	Internet users: Mysore university campus	<i>SRELS Journal of Information Management</i> , 43 (3) (2006) 243-263.	<i>ILA Bulletin</i> , 43 (3) (2007) 29-40.	
3.	Patents and patenting in India: some aspects	<i>Library Herald</i> , 45 (1) (2007) 20-29.	<i>Indian Journal of Information Library and Society</i> , 20 (3-14) (2007) 113-119.	
4.	Use and impact of e-resources in an academic and research environment: a case study	<i>Information Studies</i> , 14 (3) (2008) 151-162.	<i>Journal of Library and Information Technology</i> , 4 (2) (2008) 1-16.	<i>Indian Journal of Information, Library and Society</i> , 23 (1-2) (2010) 26-40.
5.	Teachers' attitude towards library facilities and information resources in first grade colleges in Shimoga district: a survey	<i>IASLIC Bulletin</i> , 53 (3) (2008) 164-188.	<i>SRELS Journal of Information Management</i> , 44 (2) (2007) 179-206.	
6.	Total quality management in college libraries with special reference to Bagnan college library	<i>Calcutta University Journal of Information Studies</i> , 11 (2009) 77-84.	<i>IASLIC Bulletin</i> , 55 (2) (2010) 103-108.*	

\*The title is found to be slightly changed in the case of the second publication without any change in the content. The title is " Total quality management in college library"

following table that some articles have been published during different years. This indicates that authors had the opportunity to withdraw the article from the second journal after it was accepted or published in the first one. But unfortunately, it seems that authors have not bothered to withdraw the second article.

Research misconduct is a growing problem. The focus is largely is on plagiarism, data falsification, data fabrication and the like. Duplicating publications can also be attributed as a kind of self-plagiarism that can have serious consequences. The primary responsibility is that of the authors. Journal editors and reviewers also have to be more vigilant and have to put measures in place to avoid publishing duplicate articles.

Authors who tend to make multiple submissions should remember that rejection is a universal phenomenon. Even the Nobel Prize winning paper of Hans Adolf Krebs (discoverer of famous Krebs cycle)

was rejected by *Nature* in 1937. Authors should not dread rejection. They should note that the rejected papers (mostly after revisions) also get published, sometimes in better journals. Hence, a paper should be sent to only one journal at a time, keeping in mind the fact that if the paper is publication-worthy, it will be published. Editors also should inform the author about rejection forthwith. It has been noticed that the journal *Nature* informs about rejection just within two to three days after the receipt of a paper. On getting information about rejection, the author should try another journal.

### References

1. *Indian Library Science Abstracts 2006-2010*. Kolkata, Iaslic, 2017.
2. Nature rejects Krebs's paper, 1937, <https://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/28819/title/Nature-rejects-Krebs-s-paper--1937/> (Accessed on 9 November 2017).