

Short Communication

Top 7 Indian LIS Journals

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India publishes around 130 library and information science journals. A methodology has been developed to identify the top journals. The study identified the seven journals as India's leading journals. These include *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, *SRELS Journal of Information Management*, *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, *Information Studies*, *COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management*, *IASLIC Bulletin* and *Library Herald*.

Keywords: Library and information science journals; India

Introduction

The question is often asked by Indian LIS professionals as to which are the top LIS journals of India? Having been associated with the compilation of *Indian Library Science Abstracts* published by IASLIC since long, I feel answering the question is not that easy, since around 130 LIS journals are publishing from India now, of which *Granthalaya Sarvaswamu* is the oldest one publishing since 1915. An attempt has been made to develop objective methodology based on which the leading journals have been identified.

Objectives of the study

- i) To develop a methodology for identifying the top journals;
- ii) To list the identified journals;
- iii) To depict the citation scenario, impact factor, etc; of the journals.

Methodology

In the sample only those journals have been considered which met the following criteria.

1. All the issues of 2013 volume were published by April 2014.
2. No issue was a combination of two or more issues.
3. The journal had received at least 10 citations in the year 2013.
4. Around 80% of the articles included the abstract.

The term 'article' includes research papers, short communications, research reports, review papers, editorials, obituaries, letters and excludes book reviews, notes and news, annual reports, reports of conferences and seminars, etc.

The criterion of 'peer review' has not been taken into account, because it cannot be verified whether the journal is really peer reviewed or not.

First of all, issues of the journals available at NSL, IGNOU, etc. and belonging to the year 2013 were checked. The journals which did not bring out all the issues of 2013 were left out. Then the journals where abstracts form an integral part of most of the articles ($\approx 80\%$) were selected. In fact, these articles in general are research articles. And the journals themselves are research journals. Thirdly, references appended to the articles were checked at random to see which journal names are being encountered quite often. With this exercise the following seven journals stood out.

- i. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*
- ii. *Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management*
- iii. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*
- iv. *IASLIC Bulletin*
- v. *Information Studies*
- vi. *Library Herald*
- vii. *SRELS Journal of Information Management*

References appended to all the articles of the aforesaid seven journals were checked one by one. In

these references whichever pertained to Indian LIS journals were recorded in the computer file. Along with the journal title, volume number (in some cases issue number also) and page number were included. The entries when sorted alphabetically generated a long table. A summary of which follows (Table 1).

From the Table , it is evident that in all 21 Indian journals were cited in 2013 in the aforesaid seven journals. Of these 21 journals *DLIBCOM*, *Herald of Library Science*, *Indian Journal of Science Communication*, *JISSI*, *Lucknow Librarian*, and *Modern Librarian* are/seem to be dead. Thus, we are left with 15 journals which are surviving. In this list of 15 there are four journals which are the crops of the 21st century, namely *Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management (2007-)*, *Indian Journal of Information Science and Services (2011-)*, *International Journal of Library and Information Service (2012-)*, and *Pearl (2007-)*. In the

21st century (AD 2001-2014) around 90 LIS journals have started publishing from India. It is surprising that out of so many new journals only four received citations in 2013! Quite a few university departments of library and information science of our country bring out journals. Generally they are highly irregular. In the list two such journals i.e. *Journal of Library and Information Science* (from University of Delhi), and *Librarian* (Jadavpur University) have figured.

Ranked list of extant journals according to citations

Sorting the 15 extant journals according to citations we get Table 2. The Table gives us the list of top seven journals which fulfil the criteria. *Journal of Indian Library Association* and *Journal of Library and Information Science* ranking 7th and 9th could not be considered as the two journals do not fulfil the

Table 1—Journals with citations received by them in 2013

Sl. no.	Journals	Citations received in 2013
1.	<i>Annals of Library and Information Studies</i> (Citations received by earlier title/s are also included)	150
2.	<i>Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management</i>	25
3.	<i>DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology</i> (Citations received by earlier title/s are also included)	60
4.	<i>DLIBCOM</i>	1
5.	<i>Herald of Library Science</i>	8
6.	<i>IASLIC Bulletin</i>	19
7.	<i>Indian Journal of Information, Library and Society</i>	5
8.	<i>Indian Journal of Information Science and Services</i>	1
9.	<i>International Journal of Library and Information Service</i>	1
10.	<i>Indian Journal of Science Communication</i>	1
11.	<i>Information Studies</i>	31
12.	<i>Journal of Indian Library Association</i> (Citations received by earlier title/s are also included)	14
13.	<i>JISSI</i>	3
14.	<i>Journal of Library and Information Science</i>	13
15.	<i>Kelpro Bulletin</i>	2
16.	<i>Library Herald</i>	14
17.	<i>Librarian</i>	2
18.	<i>Lucknow Librarian</i>	42
19.	<i>Modern Librarian</i>	1
20.	<i>Pearl</i>	2
21.	<i>SRELS Journal of Information Management</i> (Citations received by earlier title/s are also included)	100

Table 2—Ranked list of journals

Rank	Journals	No. of citations received in 2013
1.	<i>Annals of Library and Information Studies</i> (Citations received by earlier title/s are also included)	150
2.	<i>SRELS Journal of Information Management</i> (Citations received by earlier title/s are also included)	100
3.	<i>DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology</i> (Citations received by earlier title/s are also included)	60
4.	<i>Information Studies</i>	31
5.	<i>Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management</i>	25
6.	<i>IASLIC Bulletin</i>	19
7.	<i>Journal of Indian Library Association</i> (Citations received by earlier title/s are also included)	14
8.	<i>Library Herald</i>	14
9.	<i>Journal of Library and Information Science</i>	13
10.	<i>Indian Journal of Information, Library and Society</i>	5
11.	<i>Kelpro Bulletin</i>	2
12.	<i>Librarian</i>	2
13.	<i>Pearl</i>	2
14.	<i>Indian Journal of Information Science and Services</i>	1
15.	<i>International Journal of Library and Information Service</i>	1

criterion number 1 as the two journals are highly irregular as to the maintenance of time schedule. To my knowledge no issue of *Journal of Indian Library Association* was brought out after 2011. Moreover, in the life time of the journal spanning about 50 years it could not bring out all the four issues individually more than seven or eight times. The condition of *Journal of Library and Information Science* is also no better. If these two journals become regular in their time schedule, and can bring out all the issues without any combined issue every year, both will figure among top journals. Bringing out four issues of *Journal of Library and Information Science* in a year will be almost an impossible task as long as it follows the practice of publishing only intra-departmental articles.

The ranked list puts forth the top seven Indian LIS journals, which in order of rank are *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, *SRELS Journal of Information Management*, *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, *Information Studies*, *Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and*

Information Management, *IASLIC Bulletin*, and *Library Herald*. The rest of the journals have started gathering citations. It is hoped that in near future some of them will figure in top journals.

Percentage of articles with abstracts

Table 3 depicts the percentage of articles with abstracts. Some journals include editorials, obituaries, etc which are without abstracts. As a result, percentage of abstracts in such cases goes down. From Table 3 it may be seen that except *Information Studies* all other journals published more than 90% articles with abstracts. Editorials in general do not include abstracts and possibly they reduce impact factor of the journal as well. *Annals of Library and Information Studies* had abstracts for all its articles published during the period.

Impact factor

The impact factor of the journals have been calculated the same way as is done in the case of *Web of Science*. In this case the impact factor is based on the data

Table 3—Percentage of articles with abstracts in 2013

Title/Year	No. of articles in 2013	No. of articles with abstracts in 2013	Percentage of articles with abstracts in 2013
<i>Annals of Library and Information Studies</i>	37	37	100
<i>Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management</i>	21	20	95
<i>DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology</i>	66	60	91
<i>IASLIC Bulletin</i>	19	18	95
<i>Information Studies</i>	21	16	76
<i>Library Herald</i>	24	22	91
<i>SRELS Journal of Information Management</i>	69	62	90

Table 4—Impact factor of the journals

Title/Year	Articles in 2011	Articles in 2012	Citations to 2011 & 2012 articles in 2013	Impact factor for the year 2013
<i>Annals of Library and Information Studies</i>	36	27	23	0.365
<i>Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management</i>	19	26	13	0.289
<i>Information Studies</i>	14	20	9	0.265
<i>SRELS Journal of Information Management</i>	67	72	20	0.144
<i>DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology</i>	66	65	18	0.137
<i>IASLIC Bulletin</i>	25	24	2	0.041
<i>Library Herald</i>	24	46	0	0.000

gleaned from the journals listed in Table 4. The impact factors of *SRELS Journal of Information Management* and *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology* are low possibly because they publish every year a large number of articles many of which may be poor in respect of citation generation potential¹. *Library Herald* is yet to open its account in respect of impact factor, which I am sure will do in near future.

Conclusion

More than one hundred LIS departments, institutions and associations are conducting LIS courses of various levels in our country. To keep the knowledge of teachers and students up-to-date it is necessary to subscribe to some journals. Foreign journals may be subscribed on the basis of their impact factors. The question arises out of about 130 Indian LIS journals

which ones are to be subscribed. I hope this list will be of some help. According to UGC guidelines a PhD scholar is to publish a paper in a peer-reviewed journal. They may publish in any one of these journals in case s/he intends to publish in an Indian journal. The methodology may be used to identify top journals in any subject.

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