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Open Access Library and Information Science (LIS) Journals Indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): An Analytical Study

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The study examines the trends and current status of Open Access (OA) research journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) from 2003 to mid-2026. It investigates the profile of OA LIS journals, publishing trends, publishing practices, open access policies, licensing practices and journal scope through thematic analysis of keywords. The study identified 231 OA LIS journals published in 32 languages by 200 publishers across 55 countries globally. The study adopted a descriptive research approach and data were collected from the DOAJ and verified through the official journal websites where required. The collected data were compiled, organised, tabulated and analysed using Microsoft Excel. The findings provide insights into the growth of LIS journals, geographical distribution, publishers, language profile, publication mode, peer-review practices, article processing charges (APCs), copyright ownership, Creative Commons licensing, self-archiving policies, digital preservation mechanisms, Digital Object Identifier (DOI) availability and other publishing infrastructure adopted by OA LIS journals. Additionally, thematic analysis of journal keywords identifies the major subject areas and research focus of the OA LIS journals. The analysis provides an extensive overview of the present situation of DOAJ-indexed OA LIS journals and contributes to a better understanding of their publishing practices, policy adoption and technological infrastructure, thus offering useful evidence for researchers, librarians, publishers and policymakers.

Keywords: Open Access, Scholarly Publishing, Publishing Practices, Subscribe to Open (S2O), Open Access Journals (OAJ), Open Access Publishing, Peer Review, Creative Commons.

1 Introduction

Open Access (OA) has revolutionized scientific communication by providing free and unrestricted access to academic literature and eliminating financial, legal and technical barriers that traditionally finite the dissemination of information and knowledge[1–4]. The modern OA movement gained global recognition through the Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002), which defined the principles of unrestricted and free access to scientific/academic publications and laid the foundation for subsequent initiatives, including the Bethesda Statement and the Berlin Declaration[1,4,5]. Unlike the traditional subscription-based models[2,6], OA allows students, researchers, authors, teachers and the general public to access scientific publications freely, enhancing the visibility, accessibility and impact of scientific research[2,7]. Over the decade, OA has emerged into several publishing models[7], including Gold, Green, Diamond, Bronze and Hybrid OA, each differing in terms of funding mechanisms, copyright ownership, and publication policies[5–8]. The rapid expansion of OA publishing reflects the global commitment to promoting equitable access to scientific knowledge and accelerating research dissemination[9].

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is widely recognized as one of the leading and most trusted platforms supporting the global OA movement[10,11]. Established in 2003[4,12], DOAJ indexes peer-reviewed, fully open access journals that meet defined standards of editorial quality, transparency and publishing ethics[4,13,14]. Since its inception, the directory has grown substantially and now includes thousands of journals covering a wide range of academic disciplines from numerous countries and languages[7,12,15–17]. Because of its comprehensive coverage and quality-control criteria, DOAJ has become an essential source

for researchers, librarians, publishers and policymakers seeking reliable information on OA journals and publishing practices[17–19].

Library and Information Science has played a significant role in promoting and evaluating open access publishing, as the discipline is closely associated with scholarly communication, information access and knowledge dissemination. Several studies have analysed DOAJ-indexed journals in disciplines such as chemistry[4], agriculture[12,20], computer science[21], law[22], economics[23], science[24] and social sciences[18]. Although a few studies have also examined LIS journals[13,25], these investigations have primarily been limited to aspects such as publishing trends, publisher distribution, geographical distribution, language and publication patterns. Therefore, the present study aims to investigates the current status and publishing features of the OA LIS journals listed in the DOAJ. The study focuses on the characteristics of OA LIS journals, including profile of OA journals (geographical distribution, publisher type, language, publication mode), editorial and publishing practices (peer review, APC), OA policies (licensing practices, copyright retention, S2O adoption, deposit and self-archiving policies), publishing infrastructure (persistent articles identifiers, digital preservation) and scope of the journals through the thematic analysis of keywords. The study aims to reveal new trends and patterns of global OA publishing landscape in LIS by analysing in detail and bringing up to date LIS journals available in DOAJ.

2 Literature Review

Existing literature provides valuable insights into the development, characteristics and publishing practices of OA journals indexed/listed in the DOAJ. Over the past two decades (2003-2026), OA has evolved into a mainstream publishing model encompassing Gold, Green, Diamond, Hybrid, Platinum and Bronze variants, with systematic analyses showing a consistent annual growth rate of nearly 11% between 2004 and 2024 and a clear citation advantage for Gold and Hybrid models[5]. Within this landscape, the DOAJ has become the most authoritative and comprehensive gold-road OA database, growing from just 22 journals in 2002 to over 16,500 by 2021 across 126 countries[17], and later surpassing 17,300 journals from 130 countries in 80 languages[7]. Since then, DOAJ has continued to expand, indexing more than 23,100 peer-reviewed OA journals from over 141 countries in 92 languages by mid-2026, demonstrating the continued global growth of open access publishing[10].

Subject-wise investigations of DOAJ have proliferated across disciplines, reflecting the directory's disciplinary breadth. Studies have profiled Botany journals[15], Chemistry journals[4], Computer Science journals[7], Economics journals[23], Agriculture and Allied Sciences journals[12,20], Social Science journals[18], LIS[13,25] and Law journals[22], alongside broader multi-disciplinary science studies covering Zoology, Physics, Microbiology, Astronomy, and Mathematics[24]. Country-specific analyses have similarly examined India's contribution to OA publishing, showing that Indian journals account for a small fraction of DOAJ's global total despite steady growth[9,19].

Within this broader body of subject-wise research, studies profiling OA journals in DOAJ have addressed several recurring dimensions. Regarding the growth pattern of LIS OA journals, Chatterjee (2023)[25] found that scholarly OA publishing in LIS has maintained quality and shown sustained growth over the preceding decade. In terms of geographical distribution of publishers, Chakravarty and Diksha (2020)[13] reported that DOAJ-indexed LIS journals originate from 43 countries, with the United States contributing the highest number and India contributing only one title, a pattern of skewed representation echoed in other national-level OA studies[19]. On the language profile, English was identified as the dominant medium of dissemination among LIS journals[13], consistent with findings across other disciplines where English-only journals dominate gold OA indexing more broadly[26]. With respect to publication mode, LIS journals were found to overwhelmingly prefer PDF as the standard file format[13]. Turning to editorial and publishing practices, peer review was found to be significantly practiced in double-blind form among DOAJ LIS journals, though plagiarism policies were rarely disclosed[13], while broader DOAJ-wide surveys show that the majority of OA journals overall do not levy Article Processing Charges (APCs), with average APCs when charged found to be volatile and difficult to predict[27,28]. On OA policies, DOAJ journals across disciplines have generally shown strong adoption of Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licensing[4,12], though author copyright retention often remains restricted, with the majority of Indian OA journals not granting authors full publishing rights[19]; dedicated investigation of deposit, self-archiving, and transformative Subscribe-to-Open (S2O) adoption specifically within LIS journals remains comparatively underexplored, though faculty-level awareness of such

rights-retention mechanisms has been noted as generally limited[6]. Regarding publishing infrastructure, DOI has been identified as the preferred persistent article identifier among Indian OA journals generally[19], while dedicated studies of digital preservation practices specific to LIS OA journals remain scarce in the current literature. The thematic analysis of journal keywords showed that most studies concentrated on the quality and growth of OA research journals, whereas legal, economic, and technological aspects received limited attention[29], highlighting the need for comprehensive analyses of DOAJ-indexed LIS journals covering multiple publishing and policy dimensions.

3 Research Objectives

The study aims to examines the publishing characteristics and open access practices of OA LIS research journals indexed/listed in DOAJ. The objectives of the study are as follows:

i) To scrutinize the profile of OA LIS journals in terms of growth pattern, geographical distribution of publishers, publication mode and language of publication.
ii) To analyse the publishing and editorial practices of OA LIS journals, including Article Processing Charges (APCs), waiver policies, APC ranges and peer review.
iii) To examine the open access policies of LIS journals with respect to licensing practices, copyright retention, deposit and self-archiving, and Subscribe to Open (S2O) adoption.
iv) To investigate the publishing infrastructure of OA LIS journals through digital preservation mechanisms and persistent article identifiers.
v) To identify the scope of OA LIS research journals through the thematic analysis of journal keywords.

4 Research Methodology

The present study employed a descriptive research approach using content analysis to investigates the publishing characteristics and open access practices of 231 OA LIS research journals indexed in the DOAJ. The OA journals were identified and the required data were collected from the DOAJ (https://doaj.org/u/1sriWf) and cross-verified with the official websites of the respective journals during the period of data collection from 25 June -30 June 2026. The collected data were compiled, organised, tabulated and analysed using descriptive statistical techniques, including percentages, frequencies, tables and figures, to present the findings systematically.

5 Study Scope

The present study examines the publishing characteristics and open access practices of 231 OA LIS research journals indexed in the DOAJ. The assessment covers journal pattern of growth, publishers' geographical distribution, language profile, publication mode, editorial and publishing practices, open access policies, publishing infrastructure and scope of journals based on thematic analysis of journal keywords. The findings are based on information available in DOAJ database and the official journal websites during the period of data collection.

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected from the DOAJ were organised, tabulated and analysed using Microsoft Excel. The findings were interpreted using descriptive statistics and presented in the form of tables and charts.

6.1 Profile of OA LIS Research Journals

The profile of OA LIS journals is analysed using indicators such as geographical distribution, publisher, publication language, mode and related characteristics.

6.1.1 Growth Pattern of LIS Journals

Table 1 presents the growth pattern of LIS journals from 2003 to mid-2026. As shown in table 1 and

Table 1 — Year wise distribution of LIS Journals (2003-2026)

Year	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)	Cumulative No. of Journals	Cumulative Percentage (%)
2003	4	1.73%	4	1.73%
2004	1	0.43%	5	2.16%
2005	3	1.30%	8	3.46%
2006	5	2.16%	13	5.63%
2007	6	2.60%	19	8.23%
2008	2	0.87%	21	9.09%
2009	3	1.30%	24	10.39%
2010	4	1.73%	28	12.12%
2011	4	1.73%	32	13.85%
2012	6	2.60%	38	16.45%
2013	12	5.19%	50	21.65%
2014	1	0.43%	51	22.08%
2015	9	3.90%	60	25.97%
2016	10	4.33%	70	30.30%
2017	25	10.82%	95	41.13%
2018	12	5.19%	107	46.32%
2019	14	6.06%	121	52.38%
2020	15	6.49%	136	58.87%
2021	12	5.19%	148	64.07%
2022	14	6.06%	162	70.13%
2023	19	8.23%	181	78.35%
2024	14	6.06%	195	84.42%
2025	24	10.39%	219	94.81%
2026*	12	5.19%	231	100%

*The 2026 data represent journals available up to the date of data collection.

figure 1, the number of LIS journals remained comparatively low during the starting years, with 4 journals (1.73%) in 2003, followed by 1 journal (0.43%) in 2004 and 3 journals (1.30%) in 2005. A gentle increase was noticed from 2013 onwards, with 12 journals (5.19%) in 2013, 10 journals (4.33%) in 2016 and 25 journals (10.82%) in 2017. The maximum number of LIS journals was recorded in 2025 with 24 journals (10.39%), followed by 2023 with 19 journals (8.23%) and 2020 with 15 journals (6.49%). The cumulative number of journals increased continuously throughout the study period, reaching 231 journals by mid-2026, indicating a steady growth in LIS journal inclusion over time.

6.1.2 Geographical Distribution of Publishers

The table 2 presents the distribution of OA LIS journals by the publishers' country. As show in table 2 and figure 2, the United States has the highest number of journal publishers with 33 journals (14.29%), followed by Brazil with 25 journals (10.82%) and Indonesia with 19 journals (8.23%). Iran contributes 13 journals (5.63%), while Spain and Poland each account for 11 journals (4.76%). Ukraine and Egypt

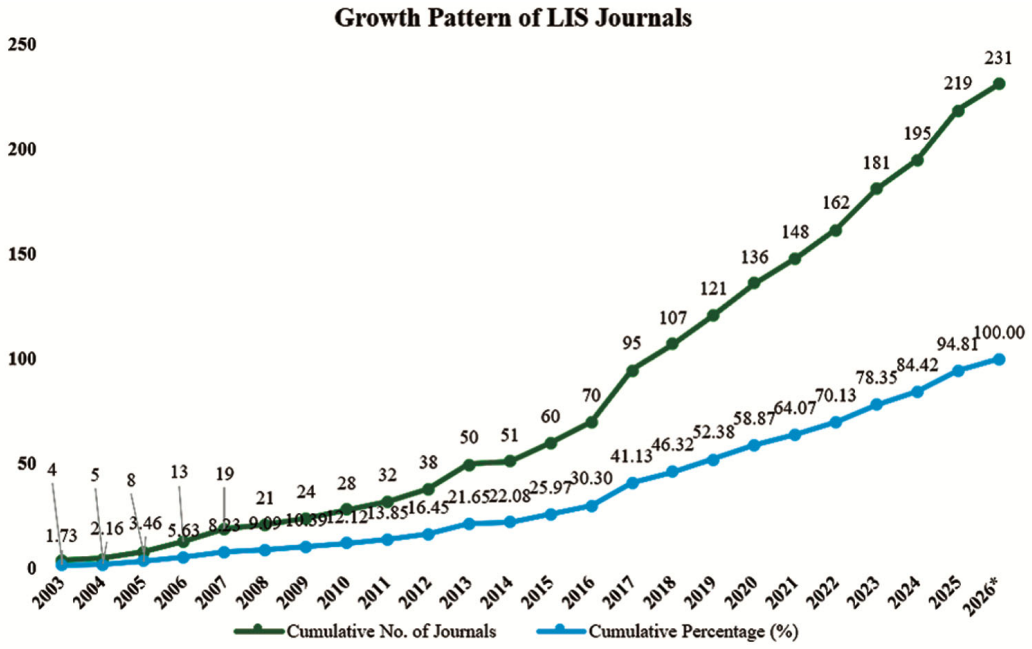

Fig. 1 — Growth Pattern of LIS Journals

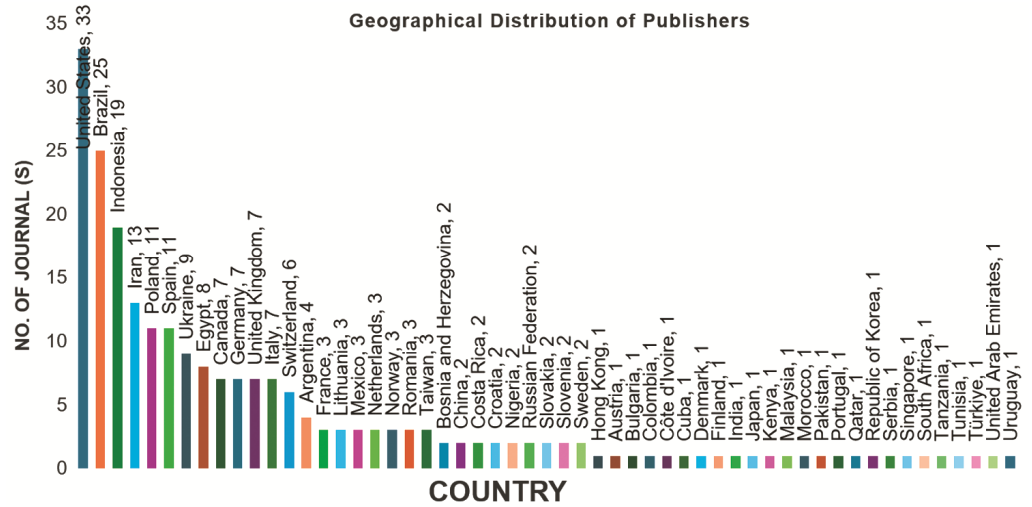

Fig. 2 — Geographical Distribution of Publishers

publish 9 journals (3.90%) and 8 journals (3.46%) respectively, whereas Canada, Germany and United Kingdom contribute 7 journals each (3.03%). The remaining 81 journals (35.06%) were published in 44 other countries, as shown in figure 2, indicating the wide geographical distribution of publishers.

Table 2 — Distribution of LIS Journals by Country

Publishers' Country	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)
United States	33	14.29%
Brazil	25	10.82%
Indonesia	19	8.23%
Iran	13	5.63%
Poland	11	4.76%
Spain	11	4.76%
Ukraine	9	3.90%
Egypt	8	3.46%
Others (47 countries)	95	44.16%
Total	231	100%

Table 3 — Top Publishers Based on LIS Journal Output

Publisher	No. of Journals (N=321)	Percentage (%)
University of Alberta, Canada	3	1.30%
University Library System, University of Pittsburgh	3	1.30%
Universidade Federal da Paraíba, Brazil	3	1.30%
Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain	3	1.30%
Michigan Publishing, University of Michigan Library, United States	3	1.30%
De Gruyter, Germany	3	1.30%
MDPI AG, Switzerland	3	1.30%

6.1.3 Top Publishers by Number of Journals

Table 3 presents the top publishers based on the number of LIS journals. The table 3 and figure 3 show that University of Alberta, University of Pittsburgh, Universidade Federal da Paraíba, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Michigan Publishing, De Gruyter and MDPI AG each publish 3 journals (1.30%). As illustrated in Figure 9, more than 15 publishers each published 2 journals, while over 170 publishers published one journal each, bringing the cumulative total of 231 LIS OA journals.

6.1.4 Distribution of Publisher Category

Table 4 presents the distribution of publishers by category. The analysis of table 4 and Figure 4 indicate that University/University Press/University Department is the largest publisher category, comprising 131 publishers (56.71%). This is followed by Professional Association/Society/Federations, account for 31 publishers (13.42%). Research Institutes and Government Organizations contribute 26 publishers (11.26%), while Commercial Publishers/Publishing Houses and Library (National/Public/Special Libraries), account for 12 publishers (5.19%) and 10

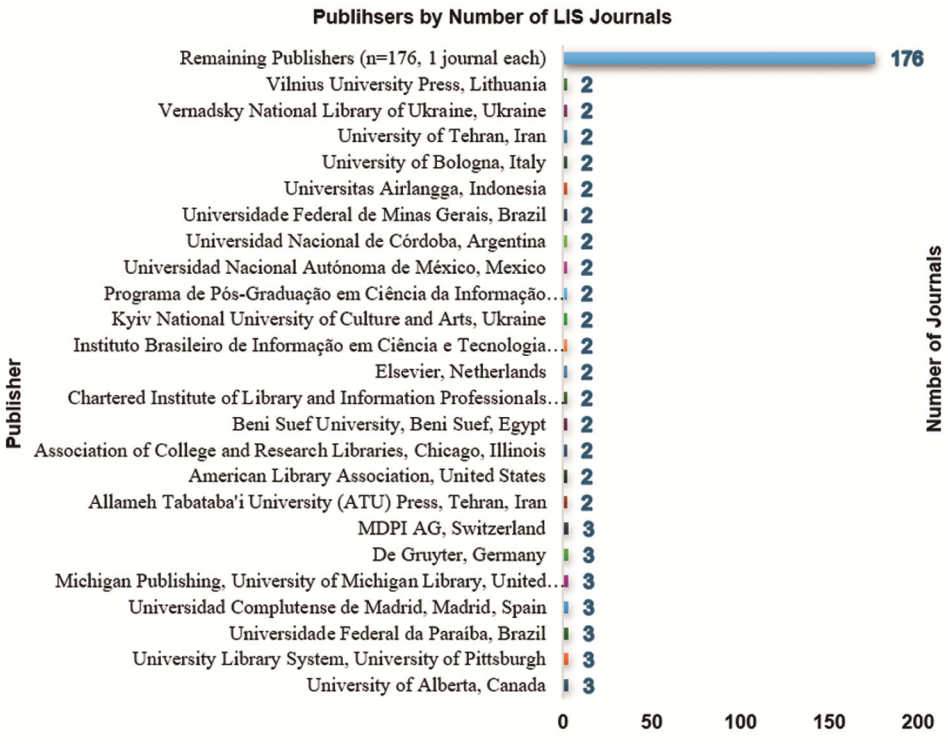

Fig. 3 — Top Publishers by Number of LIS Journals

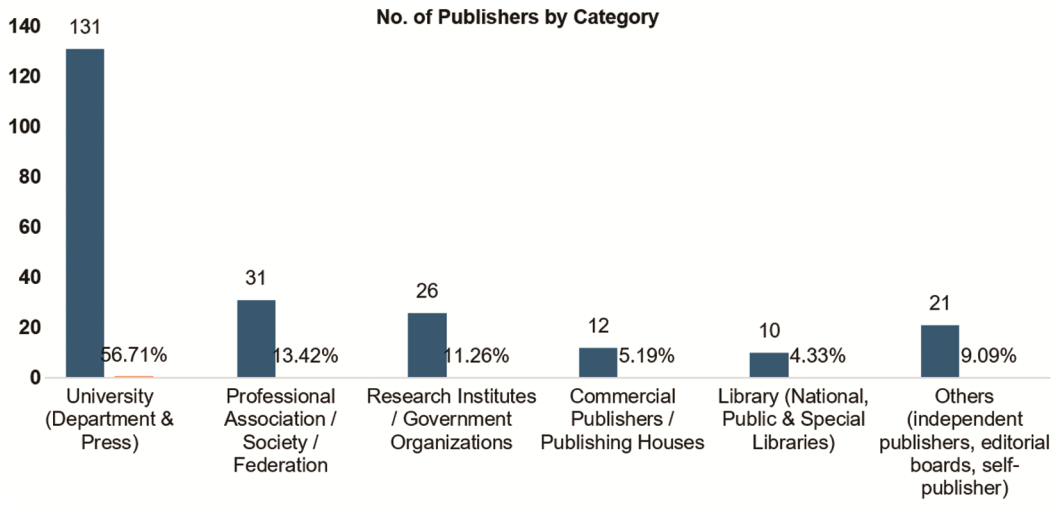

Fig. 4 — Category-wise Distribution of LIS Publisher

Table 4 — Category-wise Distribution of LIS Publisher

Publisher Category	No. of Publishers	Percentage (%)
University (Department & Press)	131	56.71%
Professional Association / Society / Federation	31	13.42%
Research Institutes / Government Organizations	26	11.26%
Commercial Publishers / Publishing Houses	12	5.19%
Library (National, Public & Special Libraries)	10	4.33%
Others (independent publishers, editorial boards, self-publisher)	21	9.09%
Total	231	100%

Table 5 — Distribution of Journals by Language Category

Language Category	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)
Monolingual (1 language)	110	47.62%
Bilingual (2 languages)	75	32.47%
Trilingual (3 languages)	29	12.55%
Four-language	10	4.33%
Five-language	6	2.60%
Multilingual (9 languages)	1	0.43%
Total	231	100%

publishers (4.33%) respectively. Others category with 21 publishers (9.09%), which includes independent publishers, editorial boards, organizations, collaborations and other miscellaneous publishing bodies.

6.1.5 Language Profile of Journals

The table 5 presents the language categories of the LIS journals. The table 5 and figure 5 show that 110 journals (47.62%) are published in a single language, making monolingual journals the most common category. This is followed by 75 journals (32.47%)

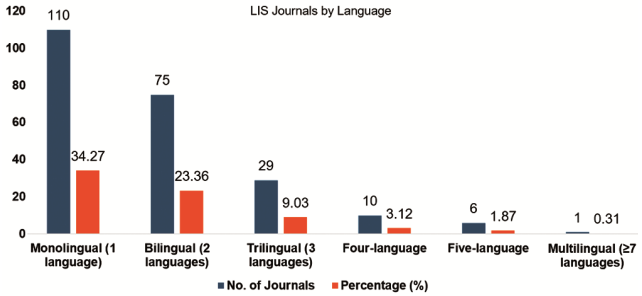

Fig. 5 — Distribution of LIS Journals by Language Category

published in two languages and 29 journals (12.55%) published in three languages. A relatively small number of journals publish in four languages (4.33%), five languages (2.60%) and nine languages (0.43%).

Table 6 presents the distribution of publication languages used by the journals. The figure 6 and table 6 show that English is the most widely used language, accounting for 191 occurrences (82.68%), followed by Spanish with 43 (18.61%) and Portuguese with 38 (16.45%). French (8.23%), Indonesian (6.93%), and German (6.06%) also represent a notable share of the journals. Other languages, including Arabic and Italian (4.76% each), Polish and Ukrainian (4.33% each) and Persian (3.90%), have comparatively lower representation. The remaining languages individually account for less than 3% of the total language occurrences.

6.1.6 Journal Publication Mode

Table 7 presents the distribution of journals by publication mode. The figure 7 reveal that Online is the most common publication mode, accounting for 118 journals (51.08%), followed by Both (Print and Online) with 104 journals (45.02%). Print-only

Table 6 — Distribution of Publication Languages Across LIS Journals

Language	No. of Journals (N=231)	Percentage (%)	Language	No. of Journals (N=231)	Percentage (%)
English	191	82.68%	Serbian	4	1.73%
Spanish	43	18.61%	Bosnian	3	1.30%
Portuguese	38	16.45%	Czech	3	1.30%
French	19	8.23%	Slovak	3	1.30%
Indonesian	16	6.93%	Swedish	3	1.30%
German	14	6.06%	Danish	2	0.87%
Arabic	11	4.76%	Norwegian	2	0.87%
Italian	11	4.76%	Slovenian	2	0.87%
Polish	10	4.33%	Belarusian	1	0.43%
Ukrainian	10	4.33%	Bulgarian	1	0.43%
Persian	9	3.90%	Finnish	1	0.43%
Russian	6	2.60%	Galician	1	0.43%
Chinese	5	2.16%	Norwegian Bokmål	1	0.43%
Croatian	5	2.16%	Romanian	1	0.43%
Catalan	4	1.73%	Turkish	1	0.43%
Lithuanian	4	1.73%	Urdu	1	0.43%

Note: Some journals publish in multiple languages; therefore, the total language count exceeds the total number of journals (N = 231)

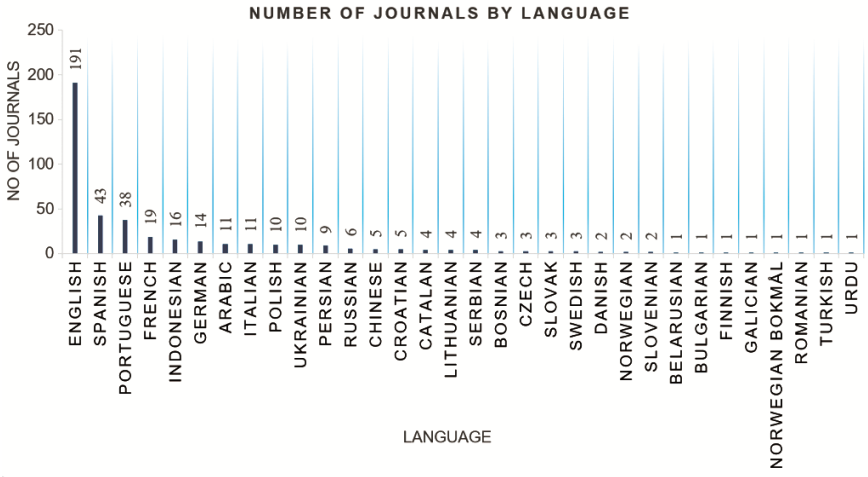

Fig. 6 — Distribution of Publication Languages Across LIS Journals

journals constitute 9 journals (3.90%), representing the smallest proportion.

6.2 Editorial and Publishing Practices

Editorial and publishing practices are important indicators for evaluating the quality, transparency and operational standards of scholarly journals. This section analyses the editorial and publishing practices of OA LIS journals, including peer-review models, article processing charges (APCs) and copyright policies[4,12].

6.2.1 Peer Review System

Table 8 presents the distribution of peer review types adopted by the LIS journals. The table 8 and figure 8 show that Double Anonymous Peer Review is the most commonly used review system, adopted by 161 journals (69.70%). This is followed by Anonymous Peer Review with 42 journals (18.18%) and Peer Review with 24 journals (10.39%). Editorial Review and Open Peer Review are used by 9 journals (3.90%) and 7 journals (3.03%) respectively, while Committee Review is the least common, adopted by 1 journal (0.43%).

6.2.2 Article Processing Charges (APC)

The Table 9 shows the status of LIS journals based on Article Processing Charges (APC). As seen in the figure 9, out of 231 LIS journals, 200 journals (86.58%) do not charge any APC, while 31 journals (13.42%) require authors or author's institution to pay an APC for publication. This indicates that most of the LIS journals indexed in the DOAJ are free to publish, making them easily accessible to the open access community.

Table 7 — Distribution of LIS Journals by Publication Mode

Publication Mode	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)
Print	9	3.90%
Online	118	51.08%
Both (Print and Online)	104	45.02%
Total	231	100%

Table 8 — Distribution of LIS Journals by Peer Review Type

Peer Review Type	No. of Journals (N=231)	Percentage (%)
Double Anonymous Peer Review	161	69.70%
Anonymous Peer Review	42	18.18%
Peer Review	24	10.39%
Editorial Review	9	3.90%
Open Peer Review	7	3.03%
Committee Review	1	0.43%

Note: Some journals use more than one peer review type; therefore, the total peer review count exceeds the total number of journals.

Table 9 — Distribution of LIS Journals by APC Status

APC Status	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)
APC	31	13.42%
Non-APC	200	86.58%
Total	231	100%

Table 10 — Distribution of APC Waiver Policy

Waiver Policy	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)
No Waiver Policy	19	61.29%
Waiver Policy Available	12	38.71%
Total	31	100%

Table 11 — Distribution of APC Range (USD)

APC Range (USD)	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)
1–50	10	32.26%
51–100	4	12.90%
101–500	8	25.81%
501–1000	2	6.45%
1001–1500	5	16.13%
1501–2000	2	6.45%
Total	31	100%

Note: All APC amounts in other currencies were converted into USD for uniform comparison

Table 10 and Figure 10 presents the waiver policy of APC-based journals. Among the 31 APC instances, 19 journals (61.29%) do not provide any waiver policy, whereas 12 journals (38.78%) offer a waiver or fee reduction policy. This shows that more than half of the APC-charging journals do not provide financial support through waiver policies.

Table 11 shows the distribution of APC amounts charged by journals in USD (United States Dollar). Figure 11 shows that largest group of journals (10; 32.26%) charges between USD 1–50, followed by USD 101–500 (8; 25.81%) and USD 1001-1500 (5; 16.13%). Four journals (12.90%) charge between USD 51–100, while only two journals (6.45% each) charge between USD 501–1000 and USD 1501–2000. This indicates that most APC-charging journals in the study have publication fees below USD 500.

6.3 Open Access Policies

Open access policies play a vital role in promoting the accessibility, reuse and dissemination of scholarly publications. This section analyses the open access policies of OA LIS journals, including Creative Commons licences, copyright ownership, self-archiving permissions, and DOI availability[1,6,12].

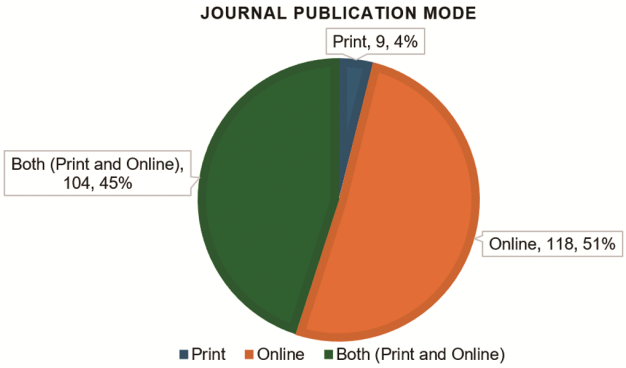

Fig. 7 — LIS Journal Publication Mode

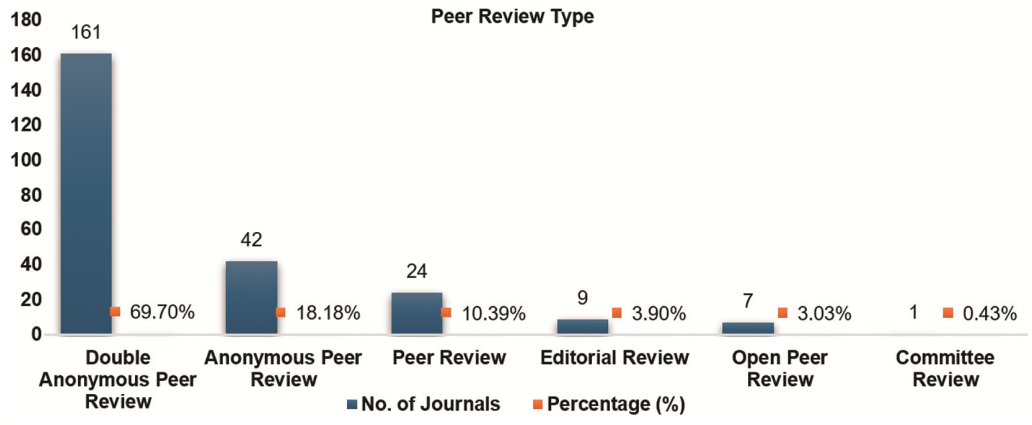

Fig. 8 — Distribution of LIS by Peer Review Type

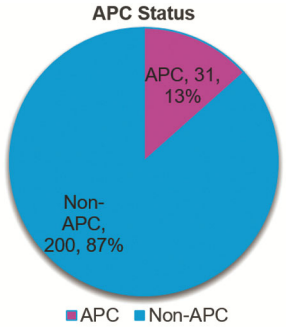

Fig. 9 — Distribution of LIS Journals by APC Status

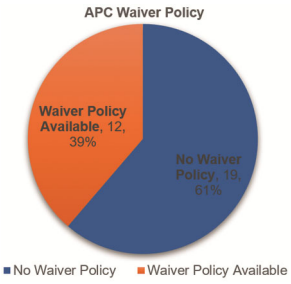

Fig. 10 — Distribution of APC Waiver Policy

6.3.1 License Types of the Journals

Table 12 presents the distribution of license types adopted by the LIS journals. The figure 12 indicate that CC BY is the most widely used license, accounting for 112 journals (48.48%), followed by CC BY-NC with 47 journals (20.35%) and CC BY-NC-ND with 35 journals (15.15%). Both CC BY-NC-SA and CC BY-SA are used by 23 journals (9.96%)

Table 12 — Distribution of LIS Journals by License Type

License Type	No. of Journals (N=231)	Percentage (%)
CC BY	112	48.48%
CC BY-NC	47	20.35%
CC BY-NC-ND	35	15.15%
CC BY-NC-SA	23	9.96%
CC BY-SA	23	9.96%
CC BY-ND	4	1.73%
CC0	2	0.87%
Publisher's Own License	1	0.43%

Note: Some journals use more than one license; therefore, the total license count exceeds the total number of journals.

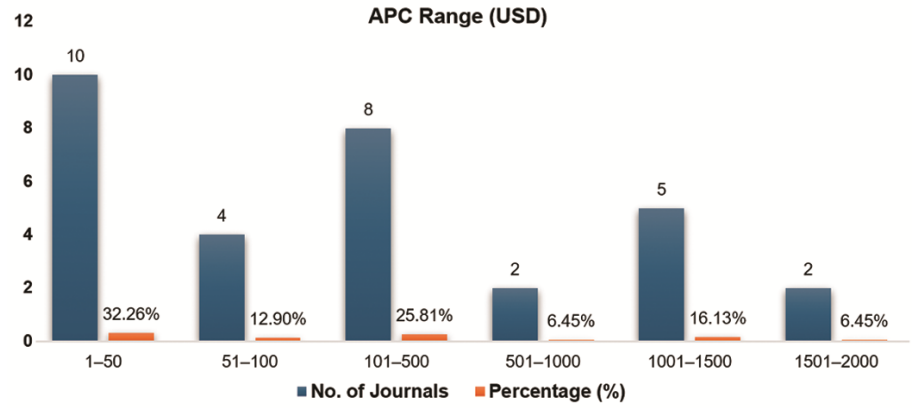

Fig. 11 — Distribution of APC Range (USD)

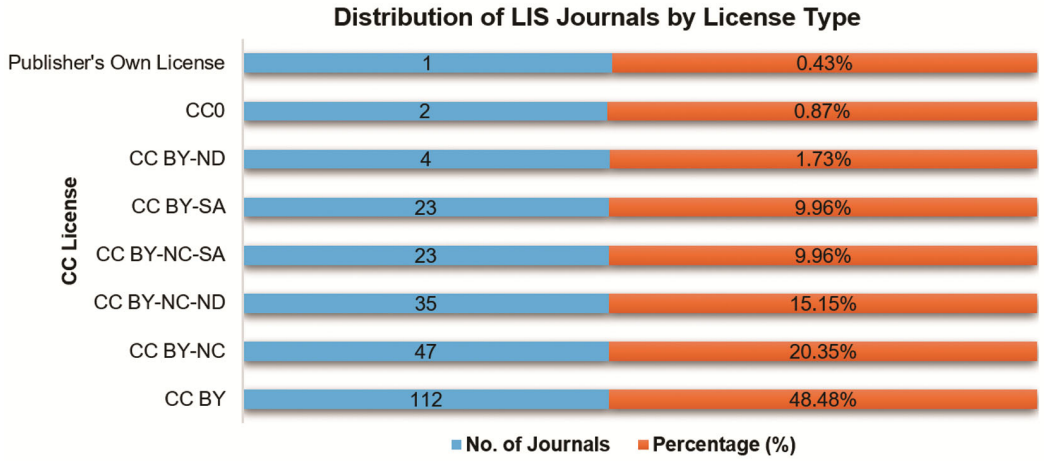

Fig. 12 — Distribution of LIS Journals by License Type

each. Less frequently adopted licenses include CC BY-ND (4 journals; 1.73%), CC0 (2 journals; 0.87%), and Publisher's Own License (1 journals; 0.43%).

6.3.2 Author Copyright Retention

Table 13 presents the distribution of journals based on whether authors retain copyright of their published work. The figure 13 reveal that 184 journals (79.65%) allow authors to retain copyright, while 47 journals (20.35%) do not. Thus, the majority of journals in the study permit authors to retain the copyright of their published work.

6.3.3 Deposit and Self-Archiving Policies of the LIS Open Access Journals

The table 14 and Figure 14 shows that, out of the 231 journals analysed, 100 journals (43.29%) provide a deposit/self-archiving policy, whereas 131 journals (56.71%) do not mention or provide any such policy. Among the journals that disclose self-archiving information (Table 15 and Figure 15), the most commonly used platform is the Open Policy Finder, which appears either independently or in combination with other services such as Diadorim and Dulcinea, making it the dominant source for communicating self-archiving policies. Diadorim is the second most frequently used platform, particularly among Brazilian journals, followed by Dulcinea, which is widely used by Spanish journals. A smaller number of journals provide self-archiving information through Mir@bel, Bridge of Knowledge (Most Wiedzy), institutional repositories, Open Journal Systems (OJS), journal websites, publisher websites, or other institutional platforms. Several journals rely solely on

Table 13 — Distribution of Journals by Author Copyright Retention

Author Retains Copyright	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)
Yes	184	79.65%
No	47	20.35%
Total	231	100%

Table 14 — Distribution of Journals by Availability of Deposit/Self-Archiving Policy

Deposit/Self-Archiving Policy	Number of Journals	Percentage (%)
Policy Provided	100	43.29%
Policy Not Mentioned/Not Provided	131	56.71%
Total	231	100%

Table 15 — Sources of Deposit/Self-Archiving Policies Used by the LIS Journals

Deposit/Self-Archiving Policy Source	Frequency	Share of Total
Open Policy Finder	53	53.0%
Diadorim	14	14.0%
Journal/Publisher Website	13	13.0%
Dulcinea	5	5.0%
Mir@bel	3	3.0%
Dulcinea; Open Policy Finder	3	3.0%
Institutional Repository	2	2.0%
Open Journal System	2	2.0%
Diadorim; Open Policy Finder	2	2.0%
Bridge of Knowledge (Most Wiedzy)	1	1.0%
Open Access Policy of JLISA	1	1.0%
Diadorim; Publisher own site	1	1.0%

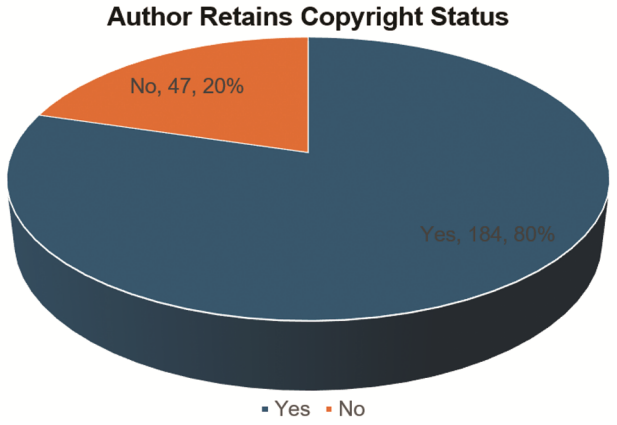

Fig. 13 — Distribution of Journals by Author Copyright Retention

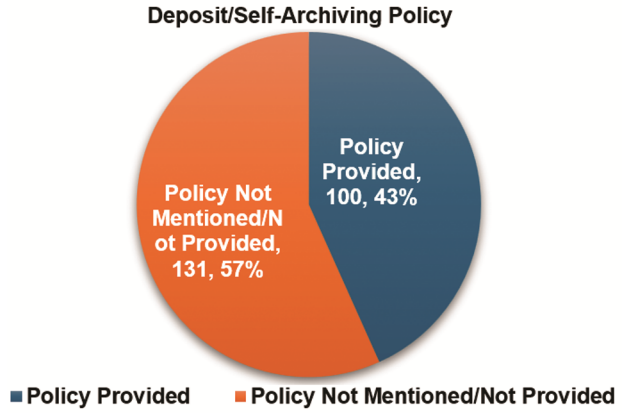

Fig. 14 — Distribution of Journals by Availability of Deposit/Self-Archiving Policy

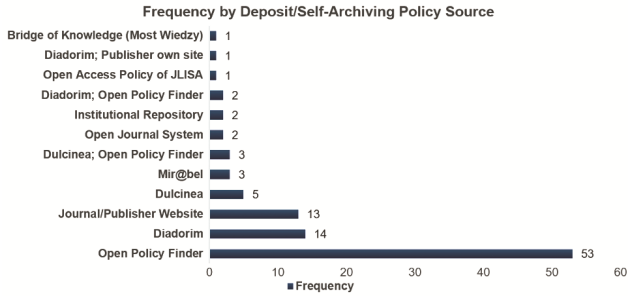

Fig. 15 — Sources of Deposit/Self-Archiving Policies Used by the LIS Journals

their own journal or publisher websites to communicate deposit and self-archiving policies rather than registering with dedicated policy directories.

6.3.4 S2O Adoption in LIS

The table 16 and figure 16 shows that, out of the 62 journals identified as adopting the Subscribe to Open (S2O) publishing model, only 2 journals (3.23%) belong to the field of LIS, while the remaining 60 journals (96.77%) represent other academic disciplines. This indicates that the adoption of the S2O model within the LIS discipline is currently limited. Although Library and Information Science has traditionally been a strong advocate for open access, open science, and scholarly communication, its representation in the S2O publishing model remains relatively low.

6.4 Publishing Infrastructure

Publishing infrastructure forms the technological foundation that supports the accessibility, visibility and long-term preservation of scholarly journals. This section examines the publishing infrastructure of OA LIS journals, including journal management systems, digital preservation services and persistent identifiers such as DOIs[12,29].

6.4.1 Persistent Article Identifiers

The analysis of table 17 shows the distribution of LIS research journals based on the use of persistent article identifiers. The table and figure 17 shows that 198 journals (85.71%) assign DOIs to their published articles. An additional 3 journals (1.30%) use DOI along with other persistent identifiers, such as CODEN, NBN or URN. In contrast, 30 journals (12.99%) do not provide any persistent article identifier. The results indicate that the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is the predominant persistent identifier used by the journals included in the study.

6.4.2 Digital Preservation Practices of the LIS Open Access Journals

The analysis shows (Table 18) that the LIS journals employ a diverse range of preservation mechanisms to ensure the long-term accessibility, integrity and sustainability of scholarly content. Out of the 231 journals analysed, 83 journals (35.93%) have adopted digital preservation practices, while 148 journals (64.07%) do not report any digital preservation mechanism (Figure 18). The most frequently used preservation systems are the National Libraries/National Repositories and PKP Preservation Network (PKP PN), each appearing 32 and 25 times, indicating their widespread adoption for secure digital archiving (Table 19). These are followed by Portico and CLOCKSS (15 occurrences), both of which are internationally recognized preservation services that

Table 16 — Contribution of Journals to Subscribe to Open (S2O) Publishing

Subject	Number of Journals	Percentage (%)
Library and Information Science (LIS) Journals	2	3.23%
Other Subject Journals	60	96.77%
Total S2O-Labelled Journals	62	100%

Table 17 — Distribution of LIS Journals by Persistent Article Identifier

Persistent Article Identifier	No. of Journals	Percentage (%)
DOI only	198	85.71%
DOI with CODEN/NBN/URN	3	1.30%
No DOI / Persistent Identifier	30	12.99%
Total	231	100%

Table 18 — Distribution of Journals by Digital Preservation Practice

Digital Preservation Practice	Number of Journals	Percentage (%)
Yes	83	35.93%
No	148	64.07%
Total	231	100%

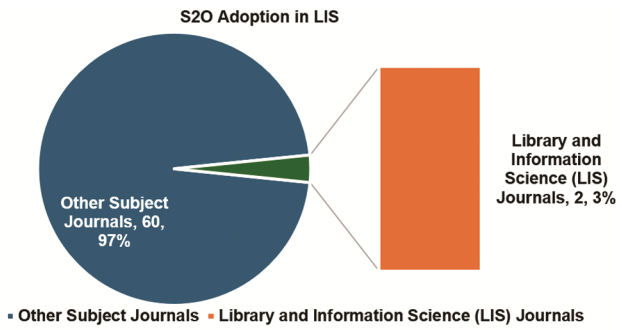

Fig. 16 — Contribution of LIS Journals to Subscribe to Open (S2O) Publishing

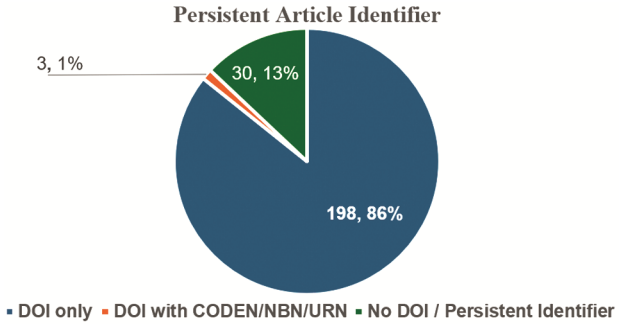

Fig. 17 — LIS Journals by Persistent Article Identifier

provide reliable long-term access to digital publications. LOCKSS and the Cariniana Network appear 11 and 10 times, highlighting the importance of distributed preservation networks in safeguarding scholarly content (Table 19 and Figure 19). A smaller number of journals rely on digital preservation through libraries, repositories, and other preservation services such as the PubMed Central (PMC) and Internet Archive are used by two journals. Several other institutional and national repositories, including Scholars Portal, Zenodo, SCIndeks, POLONA – National Digital Library of Poland, National Agricultural Library, Nanyang Technological University Library, American Library Association Institutional Repository, bepress Archive, DOI System–SCiNiTO, Egyptian Knowledge Bank, Dar Al Manzomah, Iran Scientific Journals System, are each used by one journal. This demonstrates a strong commitment to ensuring permanent preservation, disaster recovery and uninterrupted access to scholarly publications through a combination of international preservation services, national libraries, institutional repositories and distributed preservation networks.

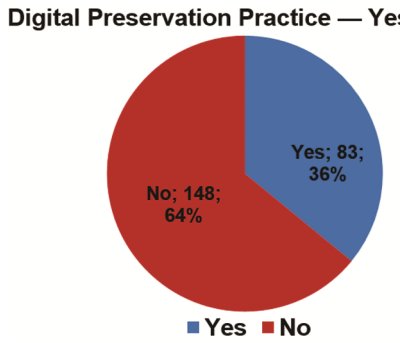

Fig. 18 — Distribution of LIS Journals by Digital Preservation Practice

6.5 Scope and Subject Coverage of Open Access LIS Journals

The thematic analysis (Table 20 and Figure 20) shows that the DOAJ-indexed open access LIS journals are mainly focused on the core domains of

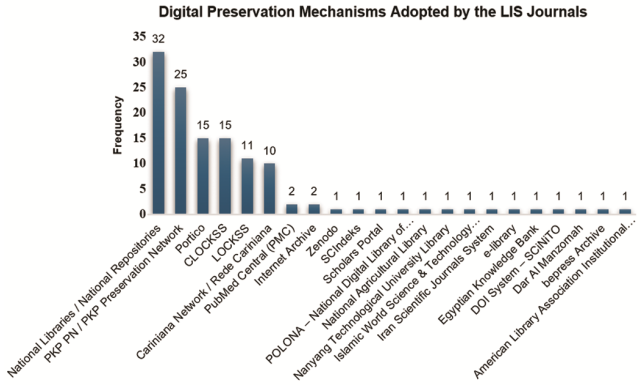

Fig. 19 — Digital Preservation Mechanisms Adopted by the LIS Journals

Table 19 — Digital Preservation Mechanisms Adopted by the LIS Journals

Digital Preservation Mechanism	Frequency	Share of Total
National Libraries / National Repositories	32	25.40%
PKP PN / PKP Preservation Network	25	19.80%
Portico	15	11.90%
CLOCKSS	15	11.90%
LOCKSS	11	8.70%
Cariniana Network / Rede Cariniana	10	7.90%
PubMed Central (PMC)	2	1.60%
Internet Archive	2	1.60%
Zenodo	1	0.80%
SCIndeks	1	0.80%
Scholars Portal	1	0.80%
POLONA – National Digital Library of Poland	1	0.80%
National Agricultural Library	1	0.80%
Nanyang Technological University Library	1	0.80%
Islamic World Science & Technology Monitoring and Citation Institute (ISC)	1	0.80%
Iran Scientific Journals System	1	0.80%
e-library	1	0.80%
Egyptian Knowledge Bank	1	0.80%
DOI System – SCiNiTO	1	0.80%
Dar Al Manzomah	1	0.80%
bepress Archive	1	0.80%
American Library Association Institutional Repository	1	0.80%
Total	126	100%

Note: Some publishers use more than one digital preservation mechanism.

Table 20 — Major Thematic Areas of the LIS Journals Based on Journal Keywords

Thematic Area	Keywords	Approx. Frequency
Library and Information Science	Library Science, Library and Information Science, Information Science, Information Studies, Librarianship	140
Libraries and Library Services	Academic Libraries, Public Libraries, School Libraries, Medical Libraries, Library Services, Library Management, Library Administration	60
Information Management and Knowledge Management	Information Management, Knowledge Management, Information Systems, Knowledge Organization, Information Behaviour	40
Archives, Records and Cultural Heritage	Archives, Archival Science, Archivology, Records Management, Manuscripts, Museums, Cultural Heritage	35
Bibliometrics and Research Evaluation	Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Informetrics, Webometrics, Citation Analysis, Research Evaluation	32
Digital Libraries and Digital Curation	Digital Libraries, Institutional Repositories, Digital Preservation, Digital Curation, Digital Collections	28
Scholarly Communication and Publishing	Scholarly Communication, Scholarly Publishing, Publication Ethics, Open Access, Publishing, Electronic Publishing	24
Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence	Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Data Science, Semantic Web, IoT, Expert Systems	22
Information Literacy and User Studies	Information Literacy, Media Literacy, Data Literacy, User Experience, Information Seeking	20
Documentation, Metadata and Knowledge Organization	Documentation, Cataloguing, Classification, Metadata, Indexing, Ontology, Knowledge Representation	18
Communication and Media Studies	Communication, Media Studies, Journalism, Science Communication, Digital Communication	18
Data Management and Research Data	Research Data Management, Data Curation, Data Analytics, Data Mining, Data Processing	16
History, Book Studies and Humanities	Book History, Bibliology, History of Libraries, Manuscripts, Literature, Humanities	12
Health Information	Health Information, Medical Informatics, Health Libraries, Health Sciences Librarianship	8

LIS, followed by library services, information and knowledge management. Traditional areas such as documentation, archives, metadata, and bibliometrics continue to receive considerable attention, while emerging themes including artificial intelligence, information technology, digital libraries, research data management, and scholarly communication illustrate the evolving scope of the discipline. Though specialized areas such as health information are less frequently represented, the overall findings show that the LIS journals maintain a balanced coverage of both foundational and contemporary topics, reflecting the multidisciplinary and technology-driven nature of modern Library and Information Science research.

7. Major Findings of the Study

7.1 Growth Pattern

The findings show a continuous and significant increase in the number of LIS journals indexed in DOAJ over the 2003 to mid-2026. By mid-2026, a total of 231 journals were listed, with the highest annual growth recorded in 2017, when 25 new journals were added. This trend reflects the continued addition of the global OA publishing ecosystem.

7.2 Geographical Distribution of Publishers

The analysis of geographical distribution of publishers shows the global nature of OA LIS publishing. United States contributed the maximum number of journals (14.29%), followed by Brazil (10.82%), Indonesia (8.23%), Iran (5.63%), Poland (4.76%) Spain (4.76%), Ukraine (3.90%) and Egypt (3.46%). Though publishers are spread across several countries, publication output remains concentrated in a few leading nations.

7.3 Categories of Publishers

The analysis of categories of publishers show that Universities (Press/Department) dominate OA LIS publishing, accounting for 131(56.71%) journals. Professional Associations contribute 13.42% of the journals, whereas government organizations, research institutes, scholarly societies, commercial publishers, libraries and others independent publishers account for comparatively smaller shares. This distribution indicates the growing role of universities in the OA publishing landscape, while also showing the continued contribution of libraries, scholarly societies and commercial publishers, reflecting the coexistence of commercial and non-commercial publishing models in LIS.

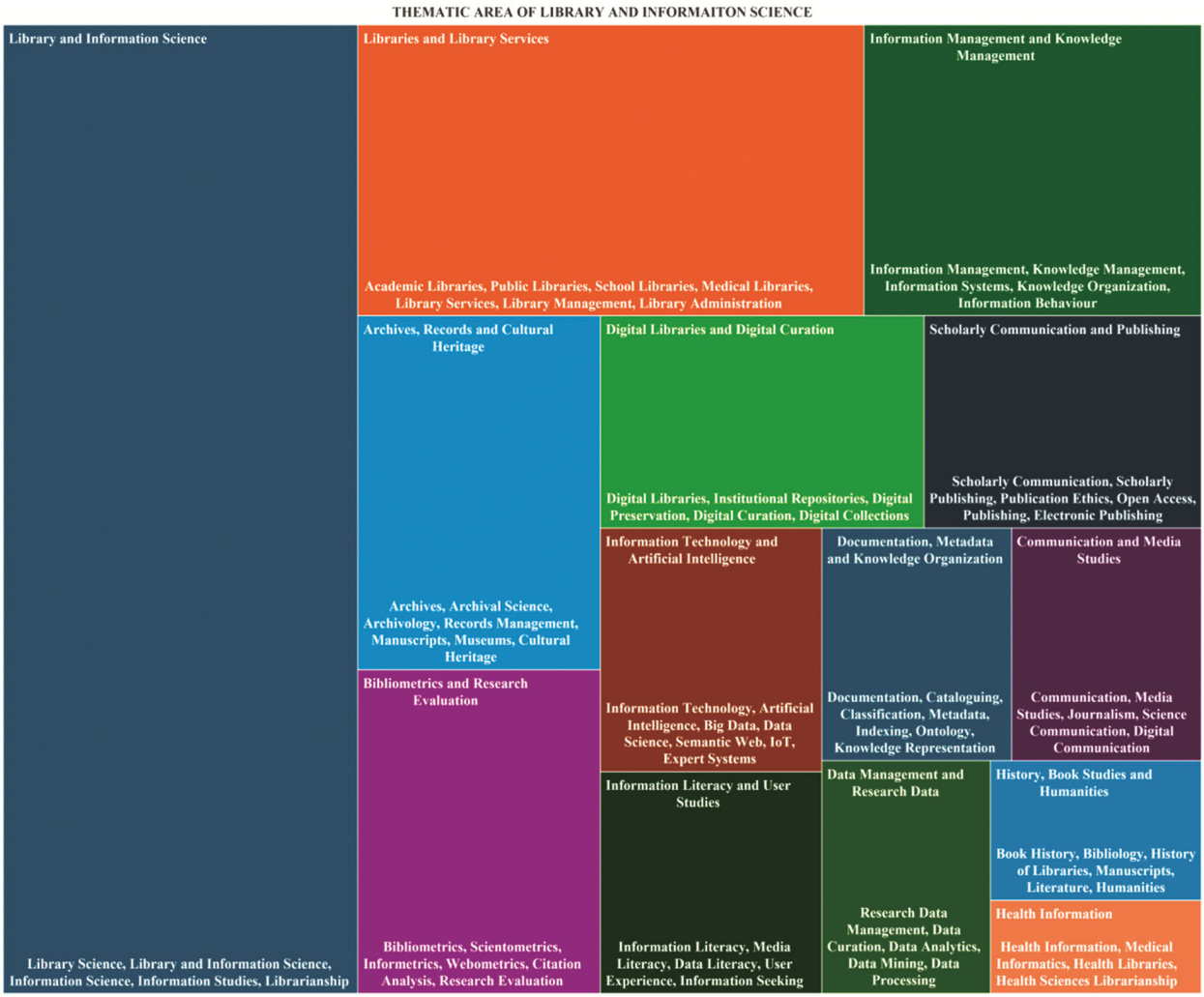

Fig. 20 — Major Thematic Areas of LIS Journals

7.4 Language Profile

The results show that English is the most widely used language of publication, accounting for 82.68% of the LIS journals. A limited number of journals are published in Spanish (18.68%), Portuguese (16.45%), French (8.23%), Indonesian (6.93%), German (6.06%) and other regional languages, reflecting the growing linguistic diversity of OA publishing.

7.5 Publication Mode

The findings show that majority of LIS journals published in the online mode (51.08%), while 45.02% publish in both print and online formats. A limited number of journals (3.90%) continue to publish exclusively in print, highlighting the transition towards digital publishing.

7.6 Peer Review

The analysis of peer review shows that double-blind peer review is the most widely adopted review model (69.70%), followed by Anonymous peer review (18.18%). The predominance of these models reflects the emphasis placed on maintaining the quality, transparency, and credibility of scholarly publications.

7.7 Article Processing Charges (APCs)

The majority of OA LIS journals (86.58%) do not charge Article Processing Charges (APCs), whereas 13.42% require authors to pay publication fees. This suggests that many publishers continue to support fair access to scholarly publishing.

7.8 Licensing

Creative Commons licences are widely adopted among OA LIS journals. Among these, CC BY (48.48%) is the most commonly used licence, indicating strong support for open access and reuse of scholarly content. Other licensing models, including CC BY-NC, CC BY-NC-ND, CC BY-NC-SA and CC BY-SA, are also used by a significant number of

publishers, showing the variety of licensing practices in open access publishing.

7.9 Copyright Retention

The analysis of distribution of copyright ownership among OA LIS journals shows that the majority of LIS journals (184, 79.65%) allow authors to retain full copyright, while the few numbers of LIS journals (47, 20.35%) do not allow authors to retain copyright. This shows that although author copyright retention is widely promoted, a substantial proportion of journals continue to require the transfer or restriction of copyright, reflecting differing copyright policies among OA publishers.

7.10 Deposit and Self-Archiving

Majority of OA LIS journals (43.29%) provide deposit or self-archiving policies, while the remaining 56.71% of LIS journals do not provide any deposit/self-archiving policies. This suggests that although many journals support deposit and self-archiving, a significant number of journals still omission clear policies, highlighting the need for greater transparency in OA publishing.

7.11 S2O (Subscribe to Open) Adoption

The adoption of the Subscribe to Open (S2O) model among OA LIS research journals is limited. Among the 62 journals labelled under the S2O initiative, only 2 (3.23%) are LIS journals. This limited adoption suggests that S2O remains an emerging open access publishing model within the field of LIS.

7.12 Persistent Article Identifiers

The analysis indicates that the adoption of persistent article identifiers is extended among OA LIS journals. The majority of journals, 198 (85.71%) use Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), while 3 journals (1.30%) use DOI with URN/NBN/CODEN. Only 30 journals (12.99%), do not provide any persistent article identifier, indicating considerable scope for enhancing the accessibility, discoverability and long-term citation of scholarly publications

7.13 Digital Preservation

The analysis indicates that 35.93% of the OA LIS journals have adopted digital preservation mechanisms through services such as National Libraries/Repositories, PKP, Portico, LOCKSS, CLOCKSS and other repositories, whereas 64.07% of the journals have not adopted any recognised digital preservation system. This highlights the need for wider implementation of long-term digital preservation practices in OA publishing.

7.14 Thematic Analysis of Keywords

The thematic analysis of journal keywords reveals that the majority of LIS journals focus on Library and Information Science, Libraries and Library Services, Information Management and Knowledge Management, Archives, Records and Cultural Heritage, Bibliometrics and Research Evaluation, Digital Libraries and Digital Curation and Health Information. Emerging themes such as Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Scholarly Communication Publishing further highlight the evolving scope of research in the LIS discipline.

8. Conclusion

The present study provides a comprehensive outline of Open Access (OA) Library and Information Science (LIS) journals indexed/listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The findings show that OA publishing in LIS has experienced significant expansion over the years, reflecting the enhancing global acceptance of OA as a sustainable model for scholarly communication. The analysis highlights the diverse characteristics of OA LIS journals in terms of their profile, trends, editorial and publishing practices, open access policies, publishing infrastructure and thematic scope. The extensive adoption of peer-review systems, Creative Commons licences, persistent identifiers and digital publishing technologies shows the commitment of publishers to enhancing the quality, accessibility, visibility and long-term preservation of scholarly content. At the same time, variations in publishing practices, licensing models and technological infrastructure suggest that opportunities remain for greater standardisation and the adoption of international best practices. Overall, the study contributes to a better understanding of the current status of OA LIS journals and provides valuable evidence for researchers, publishers, librarians and policymakers to strengthen OA publishing and promote a more transparent, accessible and sustainable academic publishing ecosystem.

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