



## Understanding Indexation, Content Policy and challenges of non-SCI/Scopus Journals: A study with CARE list LIS journals of India

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The present study considered four factors for measuring the publishing process of the non-SCI/Scopus indexed CARE-list LIS journals in India. While the first three factors, i.e. indexing status other than SCI/Scopus, quality status that is beyond impact factor, and publishing status in terms of dominant areas of publishing articles are measured by considering the journal itself, the fourth factor i.e. challenges in publishing the journal was analysed by taking opinion from the editors of the journals. A total of Six Indian LIS journals available in CARE-List I with their 3762 articles that are indexed in reputable databases are considered. From the analysis of the present study, it was seen that Indian LIS journals are mostly indexed in Google Scholar followed by Crossref. These journals mostly published articles that are in the field like open access, scientometrics, digital consortium, library management software, and information literacy. MP Satija (54), SR Ranganathan (45), MA Gopinath (37), and CP Vashistha (33) are a few legendary authors whose articles have been identified through the machine extraction process. Since most of the journals is being published by the learned societies of LIS, these journals do not have an acute shortage of funds, however, they are facing challenge because of a shortage of competent manpower for effective handling of the publication process.

**Keywords:** Indian LIS Journals-evaluation, Measuring Quality-Journals, LDA modelling-Indian Journals, LIS Journals-Editors' perception

### Introduction

Journal is considered a vehicle of scientific communication. The scientific value of journals largely depends on how many indexing services are indexed in the journal in question. The basic role of indexing and abstracting databases, although, are to disseminate the research findings of a topic available in diverse disciplines, journals, or by researchers through a common platform, these databases also help to download the full bibliographic details of all publications for citation. Clarivate's Web of Science (WoS) and Elsevier's Scopus are two well-known databases along with databases like JSTORE, PubMed, EBSCOhost, ProQuest, etc. In the field of Library & Information Science, the two well-known indexing databases are Library & Information Science Abstract (LISA) and Library, Information Science & Technology Abstract (LISTA). Recently many more indexing services have come up, however, a large number of them measure misleading impact. A

common question, therefore, comes 'Would a journal indexed with any indexing databases be considered indexed?' A related and equally controversial issue is that if a journal is indexed with a reputed database, are they really reliable?<sup>1,2,3</sup> Ronald Rossouw in a scholarly discussion pointed out "Unfortunately, you may have to publish in 'indexed journals' (at least sometimes) because of requirements by administrators who do not intend to read your work". Therefore, a study may be worthwhile to judge, even though a journal is not indexed in SCI/Scopus, how their publishing trend can be measured.

UGC-Care list contains two groups of journals: Group I and Group II. The Group II list does not contain any journal's name, rather it directs to the site of WoS and Scopus, where one can find the name of journals that are included in these two globally recognized databases. Whereas in group I, UGC-Care has developed a protocol. This protocol includes "due diligence, verification process, and critical appraisal

using sequential algorithmic elimination process". There are 20 journals included under the subject 'Library and Information Science', of which seven journals are being published from India. These journals are: *College Libraries* (West Bengal College Library Association), *RBU Journal of Library and Information Science* (DLIS, Rabindra Bharti University), *Library Herald* (Delhi Library Association), *KELPRO Bulletin* (Kerala Library Professional Organization), *Journal of Indian Library Association* (Indian Library Association); *IASLIC Bulletin* (Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centres) and *Journal of Information & Knowledge* (Sarda Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science).

It is believed that journals undergone a rigorous review process receive more credibility and reliability among the academic community. In general, 'Peer review' is considered as a gold standard in publishing arena. It describes a scientific appraisal process in which manuscripts are evaluated for quality, originality, validity, and possible impact of other experts<sup>4</sup>. But only saying 'peer-review' in the documentation does not really mean the journal follows a rigorous review process. Therefore, a journal should be checked by its publishing process, not by documentation. This issue becomes more significant for those journals that are yet to be indexed in SCI/Scopus. Although, non-SCI/Scopus index journals may have a lower citation impact, still can offer valuable research opportunities. A study may be worthy knowing that being non-indexed, they cover less popular or niche topics that cannot broaden the research horizon.

One of the greatest challenges to measure the publishing trends with non-SCI/Scopus indexed journals is getting datasets for various metadata fields. Since most of the databases other than SCI/Scopus display results in their own format, downloading all results in an analyzable structured format is a difficult task. A machine extraction approach may be a solution for those metadata fields that have common structure across various databases. There are different machine extraction approaches exist for extraction like the combination of neural networks and support vector machines (SVM). Another may be the use of deep learning approach. However, a better approach may be the use of the LDA topic modelling approach using Gensim package in Python. LDA is a probabilistic model that assumes each document is a mixture of topics where each topic is a probability

distribution over words. In this process research papers feed into the machine learning model, then training the model and finally applying it to new research papers. The LDA model may be a better choice as it does not require any prior knowledge about document contents. Analyzing each topic helps in understanding the main themes of the dataset.

### Review of Literature

The quality of a journal is measured by impact factor<sup>5</sup> for a long time. However, studies show that if a journal is not having any impact factor, it is not necessary that it is not a good journal. Zimmerman *et al.*<sup>6</sup> in their editorial beautifully explained that the "impact factor does not reflect the generosity of our reviewers with their time and their wholehearted enthusiasm to help science and technology or the rigor of our peer-review process". The impact factor does not account for the rich collaborations among the authors, or the excitement of having the first paper published in the journal. The impact factor does not consider how much pollution has been prevented or the ecosystem has been improved. The impact factor does not capture the improvement to the health and quality of life or the societal benefit from advances published in the journal.

India has a good publication history of LIS journals. Sen<sup>7</sup> in his study mentioned the presence of 130 LIS journals from India and identified the top seven journals in LIS. The ranking was based on citations received by those journals. This study categorically excludes the criteria 'peer-review' for measuring the quality of journals because "it cannot be verified whether the journal is really peer-reviewed or not". The purpose of peer-review has different opinions by different experts. Some believe that peer-review help manuscript improvement<sup>8</sup> other believe in quality control<sup>9</sup>, originality assessment<sup>10</sup>, best manuscripts for publishing in journal<sup>11</sup>, detection of fraud<sup>11</sup> and provision of a seal of approval<sup>8</sup>, but some also believe it is a social process that goes beyond technical scrutiny<sup>12</sup>.

Since peer-review is a qualitative phenomenon, researchers develop alternative mechanisms like referenced article<sup>13</sup>; expert assessment & survey<sup>14</sup> for evaluating the journal's quality. Mukherjee<sup>15</sup> in his study found that although the quantity of yearly addition of new journals in fields like physics, chemistry, and biology is quite good in India, there are 29% of physics journals, 11% of chemistry journals,

and 21% of biology journals were stopped in a year. In this study few criteria of selecting a quality journal are mentioned as Longevity and availability, promptness and regularity, review quality, editorial quality, internationalization of editorial members and contributors, number of articles per issue, citation percentage, and bibliographic database coverage, time delay in publishing, ethical procedure followed.

### Objectives

The overall aim of this paper is to know the status of publishing of the Indian LIS journal that is yet to be indexed in SCI/Scopus. The specific objectives are:

- To know the status of indexing in recognized databases for LIS CARE-List journals that are yet to index in SCI/Scopus;
- To evaluate the status of these journals through well-known parameters and then to identify the significant authors & topics on which articles were published in these journals;
- To understand the challenges in publishing such journals by gathering opinions from the journals' editors.

### Methodology

Since one of the purposes of this study was to identify the indexing status of the Non-SCI/Scopus journals of the Indian LIS field, we excavate the globally recognized databases like Google Scholar, CrossRef, Library Information Science and Technology Abstract (LISTA), and Library & Information Science Abstract (LISA). The reason behind choosing more databases was to understand whether each database has same coverage of scholarly text. Journal name along with ISSN number was searched in the all these databases. Since all these databases do not allow downloading of article in structured format, various web scraping techniques have been employed to download the searched results for analysis. The downloaded format was quite diverse in nature. A further refinement was made to make all data in a uniform format. While searching articles through these abstracting/indexing databases, we observed the journal namely *RBU Journal of Library and Information Science* is not well indexed even in Google Scholar. Only a few articles from this journal can be excavated in Google Scholar which restricts us from further analysis of this journal. So, six out of seven journals have been considered for the analysis.

All downloaded articles were then mixed with their common fields and then duplicates were removed to identify unique records. During the mixing of records, it was observed that data within a metadata field also have different display formats. Somewhere author's surname and forename were separated by a comma, somewhere without the comma. The field delimiters were also in different formats for which pre-processing was essential. A small Python-based program was used to pre-process the data. After completing the pre-processing job, data were prepared in such a manner that the machine could understand the data structure. From these structured records three major field tags i.e, author, title, and abstract were chosen. The latest Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) machine algorithm approach was employed and only 10 significant terms from all title and abstract corpus of selected journals were selected for analysis.

### Results

#### *Indexation in International Databases*

One of the major objectives of this study was to examine the various databases in order to find out if the journal claims its indexing in a database and whether that is consistently retrieved using a journal descriptor that identifies all the articles of the journal. The results are shown in Table 1 and it is clear that LIS journals enlisted in the CARE-list have been disproportionately indexed in various well-recognized databases. Despite searching the journals by their 'Publication name' or ISSN or with both, we do not get satisfactory results from these databases. The most common indexing database is Google Scholar and the least indexed database is CrossRef. The number of articles indexed in Google Scholar is much higher than other databases indicating that these LIS journals are predominantly indexed in Google Scholar. However, the most surprising fact is that all the published articles of any of these journals are not fully indexed in any of the databases. The total number of actual published article in all these journals are quite higher than what is searched in any of these database.

There may be two reasons: if the format of the article is not the desired format of the indexing database or its size becomes more than 5 MB then the article is not indexed. The other and very common reason is that if the metadata tags of the article contain incomplete or incorrect bibliographic information, it is not identified by the crawler of the

Table 1 — Status of Indexing in International databases

Journals	Crossref	Google Scholar	LISTA	ProQuest LISA	Unique Records
<i>College Library (CL)</i>	0	102	0	0	102
<i>Library Herald (LH)</i>	345	718	2	131	1028
<i>Kelpro Bulletin (KB)</i>	0	82	0	0	82
<i>Journal of Indian Library Association (JL)</i>	0	320	14	144	476
<i>IASLIC Bulletin (IL)</i>	0	395	43	388	734
<i>Journal of Information &amp; Knowledge (IK)</i>	440	460	144	863	1340

Table 2 — Evaluation of journals with criteria beyond 'peer-review'

Criteria	CL	LH	KB	JL	IL	IK
Web presence of the article	Y	YA	Y	Y	Y**	y
Regularity & Promptness in last five years	2-1	2-N	Y	Y*	Y	y
Electronic Submission system	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Disclosure of Review and Publication History	N	N	N	N	N	y
Persistent archiving/ DOI	Y/N	Y/Y	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/Y
% of Contributions by Foreign Authors in the last 5 years	0.88	5.96	12.81	0.25	0.93	10.68
Disclosure of Publication Ethics	N	N	N	N	Y	Y

*CL= College Libraries; LH=Library Herald; KB=KELPRO Bulletin; JL=Journal of Indian Library Association; IL=IASLIC Bulletin, IK= Journal of Information & Knowledge. 2-N=2 times combined issue, no issue of 2023, 2-1=2 times combined issue, one issue of 2023 till date, YA=Yes, up to abstract level, Y\*=Prior 2018 irregular, Y\*\*= Up to abstract accessible*

search engines. As a result, the article may be left out and not show up in the search result.

#### Measuring Quality Beyond 'Peer-Review'

We have learned that 'peer-review' is a difficult process to measure. Studies show that there may be some alternative ways to measure the quality, including indexation of journals in reputable databases. Since our sample journals are not indexed in Scopus/SCI, an attempt has been made to evaluate these journals with a few essential criteria. These criteria, in the present web-dominant era, seem to be major checkpoints for a journal to evaluate its publication process. We observed except *Journal of Information & Knowledge* and the *Journal of Indian Library Association* no other journals accept articles through the electronic submission system. The submission process for the remaining four journals is through email to the editor/journal. The review history of the article is only available in *Journal of Information & Knowledge*, except *IASLIC Bulletin* and *Journal of Information & Knowledge* no journal mentioned the publication ethics on their website. *College Libraries* and *Library Herald* had some missing/combined issues in the last five years, otherwise, these journals are publishing their articles as per the stated frequency. Archival access of back issues is available for all journals on their website but except *Journal of Information & Knowledge*, no journal's article has DOI. Foreign author contribution

was observed highest in *Kelpro Bulletin* and lowest in the *Journal of Indian Library Association*.

While looking at the contemporary author profile, we found that the highest number of articles was by KP Singh (86), almost all published in *Library Herald*, followed by Satish Kumar (58) almost all in *SRELS Journal of Information Management*. Our machine extraction also identified contributions from eminent authors like MP Satija (54), SR Ranganathan (45), MA Gopinath (37) and CP Vashistha (33). The contributions of these authors mostly appeared in *IASLIC Bulletin*, *Library Herald*, and *SRELS Journal of Information Management*. Of the total 3762 articles identified, the oldest article dated back to 1956 written by SR Ranganathan on *Mechanisation of library service* published in the *IASLIC Bulletin*.

#### Areas of Research in Published Article

To understand what the prominent research areas of published articles are, next, attempts have been made to extract the major topic of the published articles. A Python-based program was developed for using the Gensim module for LDA topic modeling, document indexing, and similarity retrieval with large corpora. The results of our algorithm give 32 topics from which only the top 10 topics are shown in Table 3.

Using the title & abstract corpus of papers with a topic probability of more than 0.8 the top 10 topic is selected with the highly weighted words for analysis.

Table 3 — Extraction of Topics of CARE list LIS journals using LDA algorithms

Extracted terms for the topic	Generic Topic	TA	% of Article					
			CL	LH	KB	JL	IB	IK
[(0, '0.121*"comparative" + 0.115*"repository" + 0.110*"open_access" + '0.086*"consortium" + 0.054*"author" + 0.042*"effective" + 0.034* "framework" "+ 0.031*"cite" + 0.025*"mysore" + 0.023*"facility"')],	Open Access Repositories	191	2.16	23.02	1.44	12.23	25.90	35.25
(1, '0.085*"central" + 0.084*"library" + 0.054*" computer" + 0.052*"software" + "0.048*"law" + 0.043* "university" + 0.041*"concept" + 0.030*"management" + "0.030* "activity" + 0.029*"implementation"')],	Library Management Software for University Libraries	106	1.82	28.18	0.91	15.45	27.27	26.36
(2, '0.066*"consortium" + 0.057*"network" + 0.050*"national" + "0.049*"researcher" + 0.027*"work" + 0.026*"standard" + 0.025*"technical" + '0.025* "proceeding" + 0.025*"evaluative" + 0.024*"karnataka"')]	National Research Consortia and network standard	105	0.92	13.76	0.92	7.34	44.95	32.11
(3, '0.136*"scientometric" + 0.130*"publication" + 0.075*"assessment" + "0.048*"output" + 0.045* "centre" + 0.040*"website" + 0.039*"global" + "0.038* "approach" + 0.031*"evaluation" + 0.023*"indian"')],	Scientometric analysis of global research output	217	5.83	23.77	3.59	16.59	13.00	37.22
(4, '0.120*"digital" + 0.102*"knowledge" + 0.066* "library" + 0.061*"issue" + "0.050*"management" + 0.048* "challenge" + 0.036*"repository" + "0.030* "strategy" + 0.025*"resource" + 0.024*"organization"')],	Digital library issues and knowledge management	192	3.05	25.89	3.05	6.09	15.23	46.70
(5, '0.157*"science" + 0.102*"social" + 0.096*"pattern" + 0.091*"citation" + "0.044*"library" + 0.033*"growth" + 0.032*"periodical" + 0.031*"medium" + "0.028* "authorship" + 0.023*"view"')],	Social Science Periodical Citations	222	0.88	19.38	2.64	15.42	24.67	37.00
(6, '0.113*"environment" + 0.108*"book" + 0.092* "trend" + 0.061*"productivity" + "0.044*"scientist" + 0.035*"scientometric" + 0.032*"dimension" + "0.026* "plagiarism" + 0.026*"edition" + 0.025*"technique"')],	Scientometric study on research productivity	110	0.87	22.61	2.61	17.39	23.48	33.04
(7, '0.201*"bibliometric" + 0.055*"era" + 0.045* "perspective" + 0.035*"trend" + "0.035*"measure" + 0.032*"emerge" + 0.032*"collaboration" + 0.031*"change" + "0.029*"scenario" + 0.027*"rank"')],	Scenario/trend on Bibliometric analysis	171	8.47	16.38	4.52	13.56	18.64	38.42
(8, '0.170*"journal" + 0.134*"electronic" + 0.064* "user" + 0.048*"resource" + "0.042*"usage" + 0.039* "retrieval" + 0.039*"perception" + "0.038* "open access" + 0.038*"scholarly" + 0.037*"community"')],	Usage of electronic resource and open access scholar literature	191	4.57	20.30	3.05	12.69	13.71	45.69
(9, '0.160*"library" + 0.097*"college" + 0.079*"public" + 0.073* "librarie" + "0.068*"survey" + 0.048*"user" + 0.046*"delhi" + 0.039*"service" + "0.036*"access" + 0.025*"collection"')],	Survey on public/college library	344	3.14	26.86	2.57	21.43	14.86	31.14

TA=Total articles

Each 10 topics was labeled with a generic topic that is based on the words assigned to each topic, as shown in Table 3. From Table 3 it is clear that irrespective of journal, the major areas of publishing articles are Open access repositories followed by Library automation software in the university library system and library consortia. Another major domain of published articles is scientometrics either in the area of global research output, citation analysis, or organizational research productivity. While looking at these topics at word level, it was seen that the top-

weighted keywords in 'topic 0' is comparative (0.121) study of open access (0.110) repository (0.115) and consortium ('0.086) that related to the different framework (0.034) used open access repository and consortium with access facilities (0.023) that help to authors (0.054) to get more cite (0.031). The Second set of extracted keywords relates to Library (0.084) Management (0.030) Software (0.052) that is used in different university libraries (0.084). Library management software and implementation of computers (0.054) in the library may increase user

activity (0.029) in the library. The highest number of publications on these topics are found in the *Library Herald*, *IASLIC Bulletin*, and *Journal of Information and Knowledge*. In the same way, the top-weighted keywords in ‘topic 3’ suggest a scientometric (0.136) analysis of global (0.039) output (0.048) of research publications (0.130). Although the distribution of total research publications for each journal is not equal, the highest number of publications are found in this category in the *Journal of Information and Knowledge* followed by *Library Herald* and *Journal of Indian Library Association*. Scientometric studies gain maximum importance in four Indian LIS journals, but in *Kelpro Bulletin* (KB) and *College Library* (CL) have less number of publications on scientometric studies. Two important topics that have also received attention among contributors are Digital library and Knowledge Management. A considerable number of publications have appeared in the *Journal of Information and Knowledge* and the *Library Herald*. But, in *College Library* (CL) and *Kelpro Bulletin* (KB), such topics gain little attention. The topic of electronic resources and open-access scholarly literature received maximum attention in the *Journal of Information and Knowledge*. Almost 45 percent of articles in this category are published in this journal.

In this study, a comparative graph (Figure 1) and py-LDA Visualization graph (Figure 2) have been developed to present the ten topics as identified by the LDA model. This comparative graph will help readers to understand the topic-wise documents and word counts of 10 discovered topics. T-SNE graph helps to visualisation of the underlying structure of high-dimensional data and identifies a data point's related neighbours in a low-dimensional map. That helps to understand the similar publications as similar publications points can overlap with each other.

### Challenges of the Stakeholders in Publishing

Further to explore how stakeholder groups agreed on certain themes constituting purposes of peer-review and, what challenges they are facing with their journals, an online open-ended questionnaire was prepared and took the opinion of the qualitative focus group involved in peer-review process i.e. editor of these journals. Of the six journals, five journals sent their comments while one did not agree to send their opinion. On asking a question about the selection process of reviewers, two journals claimed that senior LIS professionals in the rank of Professor in universities are one of the major criteria for selecting the reviewers while the remaining three mentioned the selection process is based on reviewers

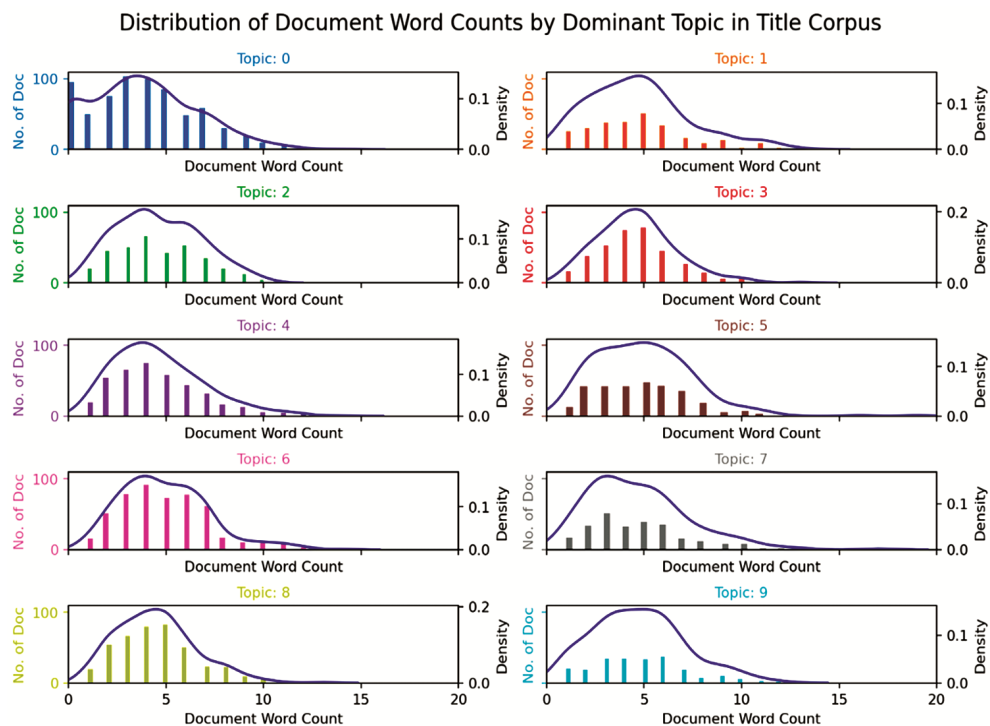


Figure 1 — Distribution of document word counts by significant topics

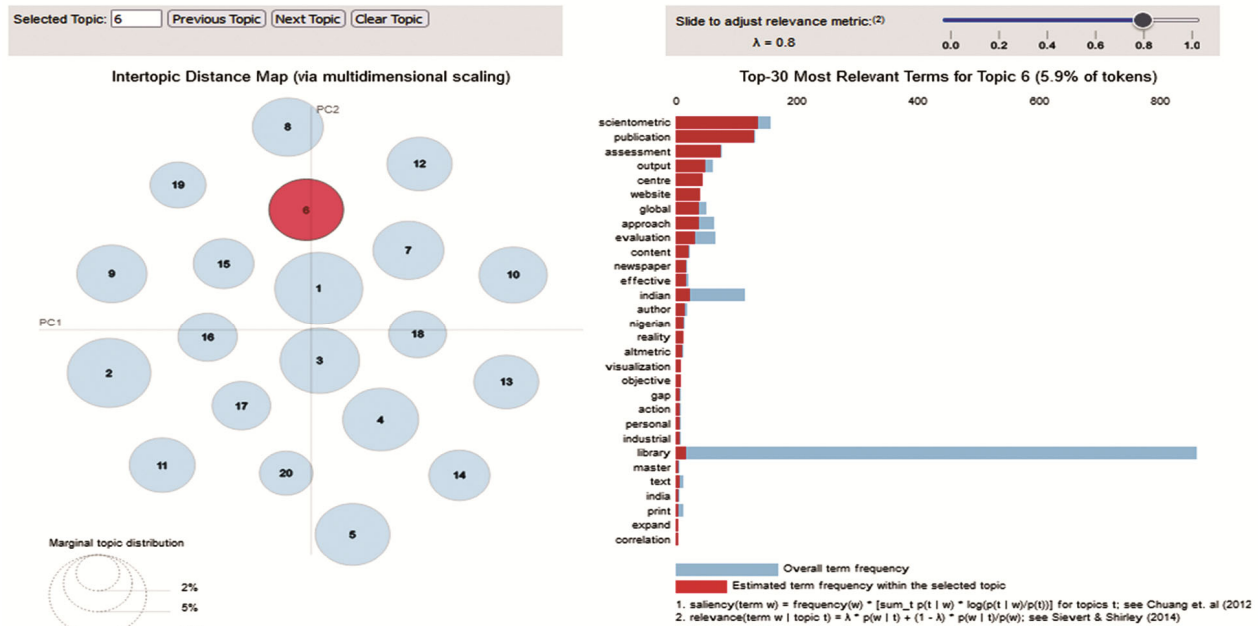


Figure 2 — pyLDA-Visualization on 10 significant topics

having specialized knowledge/expertise on the research are as relevant to the manuscript in concern or based on their earlier publications on such research areas. In addition, one journal mentioned that a reviewer having a good citation record is also a criterion of selection. In this regard two editors mentioned that most of the reviewers do not agree to review more than three articles per year and therefore, selection of good reviewers is a challenging task to them. One editor particularly mentioned that “LIS professionals in India are not willing to spend time on the review of the article”.

On the question of how long does the journal take to complete the review process, four journals mentioned 4-6 weeks, while one journal mentioned 1 to 1.5 years. While answering the question on the rejection rate, a reviewer commented “*Since the inclusion in the UGC CARE, we are getting a lot of papers from several parts of India and abroad, but about 70% of the papers are not keeping quality.*” The desk rejection rate of the submission to their journals is almost 50-70%. And they commented that “articles getting from African countries are of the low standard than Bangladesh, Indonesia and are rejected”. Overall, the percentage of rejection rate for almost all journals as mentioned is 30-35%.

Since one of the major objectives of peer-review before publishing an article is to check how far an article fits the purview of the journal, editors

expressed that peer-review is to determine if a manuscript is suitable for publication in their journal. For that, a number of parameters that are enlisted in the referee format are their criteria for choosing an article publishable. A few important of them are article should be original writing (novelty); findings and conclusions should be presented in an appropriate manner and supported by data; valid references; arguments of authors about the results and the article should be free of plagiarism.

From Table 1 we have witnessed that the inclusion of articles in various international databases was quite low. To know whether the editor initiated any actions to make journal articles to be discoverable in Google Scholar or any indexing services, most of the editors responded as ‘No’. However, a few of them mentioned that for inclusion in international databases, they try to adopt the requirements of the indexing services. One journal reported that they have adopted an SEO process to ensure retrieval of the journal details and individual articles therein. Another journal mentioned that “We had applied to include this journal in DOAJ, but the application was rejected on the grounds that the journal is delayed Open Access”.

While asking suggestions from editors of these journals they would like to offer for quality publishing, most of them suggested blind peer-review system, strict reference style, and timely publication should be the main emphasis for maintaining quality.

However, one editor has suggested for disclosure of the reviewers' list in each issue or in the final issues of that year and another journal suggested to develop a team of dedicated reviewers who have a good reputation in terms of quality publishing.

One of the major challenges for the journal for sustainable survival is managing finance. While asking the question in this issue three journals mentioned that they manage finance through annual subscriptions, membership fees, and endowment as their journals belong to their learned society. However, two journals explained that they are running the journal only because of academic interest and not for profit. Subscription is the only major income and this is not enough to run the journal. Because of the spiralling cost of print materials, their journal is running at a loss. There are a few other challenges mentioned by the editors of the journals. These include editors who are not at all getting assistance from other people, mainly because all of the people involved in their journals are working people and are least interested in running a journal. While sending a paper for review, the peers used to keep it for a long time as a result number of emails need to be sent to get an article reviewed. And after all, the comments they receive after the review is not up to the standard to accept. Since the editors do not have full-time or part-time employees for secretarial or editorial assistance, they use to spend a lot of time to make their journal survive.

## Discussion

The present study considered four factors for measuring the publishing process of the non-SCI/Scopus indexed CARE-list LIS journals in India. While the first three factors, i.e. indexing status other than SCI/Scopus, a quality status that is beyond impact factor, and publishing status in terms of dominant areas of publishing articles are measured by considering the journal itself, the fourth factor i.e. challenges in publishing the journal was analysed by taking opinion from the editors of the journals.

While analyzing the indexing status of these journals it was observed skewed indexation by international databases. The probable reason may be that most of these journals ask authors to submit their articles through email. Authors submit articles in Word or pdf format without incorporating metadata elements separately. At any stage of publishing no one inputs the metadata information of an article and

those journals input such data they do not follow any standards of inputting metadata. As a result, crawlers of the international databases are unable to extract information from the article. To overcome such a scenario, journals may adopt an Open Journal System for submission and handling the publication process. Further, they may start allotting DOI to their articles and then register to CrossRef for indexation. In this regard, the editor of one journal also mentioned that "they have made metadata transfer agreement with CrossRef and Dimensions batch for each of their articles". Lack of trained manpower/ secretarial staff for handling journals may be their major challenge, these may be overcome by identifying suitable scholars from the field.

One of the main objectives of this study is to identify top ten significant topics from CARE list LIS journals of India using the LDA method. From the results of this study, it is clear that scientometric study is one of the major areas of interest among the authors of these journals. Most of the studies in this domain basically deal with quantitative insights into the mapping of scholarly landscape, understanding of trends, impact, and structure of scientific knowledge with simple tabular data. A few better studies could be to identify the benchmarks for evaluation of the performance of Indian researchers, institutions, or journals; identify the management of research or identify potential collaboration opportunities with industries for the betterment of society.

On analyzing the comments of the reviewers, it became clear that one of the major challenges of running a journal uninterruptedly is a lack of manpower. The editor of most of these journals commented that it is the academic responsibility of only the editor to run the journal. Most of them do not get the requisite support from other members of the journal. It is, therefore, essential that the journal may reconstitute its board with a few members who are willing to work with the journal and work should be distributed among them. An editorial board in a journal should be a group of members who act not only as an ambassador of the journal but also contribute to its quality and reputation. Board members should represent a broad range of expertise and discipline. For namesake editorial board seems to be inappropriate for a sustainable model. They may also involve a few fresh scholars in our field who can assist in desk checking of an article with pre-defined criteria and have knowledge of handling Open Journal System.

## Conclusion

From the analysis of the present study, it can be concluded that Indian LIS journals are mostly indexed in Google Scholar followed by Crossref. Although LISA and LISTA are well-known two indexing databases, we observed that the web version of LISA and LISTA are disproportionately indexing articles of Indian LIS journals. The reason for such skewed indexation may be due to incomplete/improper metadata filling but this may seem to be a major drawback. Since most of the journals do not have DOI in their articles, they even not indexed in Crossref. Therefore, journals may start initiating the process to include DOI in their articles with disclosure of publication history. These journals mostly published articles that are in the field like open access, scientometrics, digital consortium, library management software, and information literacy. MP Satija (54), SR Ranganathan (45), MA Gopinath (37), and CP Vashistha (33) are a few legendary authors whose articles have been identified through the machine extraction process. Since most of the journals are being published by the learned societies of LIS, these journals do not have an acute shortage of funds, however, they are facing challenges because of a shortage of competent manpower for effective handling of the publication process.

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