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A Bibliometric Study on open Access Library and Information Science Journals in DOAJ

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Abstract:

Open Access is a form of practice through which academic publications are shared publicly online. Open Access enables Books, Journals, Research articles, Thesis and all other educational resources that shared online with peer reviewed or set of quality metrics. Open Access Journals provide an unlimited access of scholarly published articles to the user. It also facilitates the users to enrich their knowledge on various disciplines with no cost. Open Access Journals promotes unbiased information dissemination and maintains high transparency in publishing contents with international standards. The aim of the present study is to analyze the open access Library and Information Science Journals published in Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) website as on 17th December 2020. Currently, DOAJ database published 15633 journals and 5474195 articles in all the subjects. This study reveals that out of 15633, 176 indexed journals and out of 5474195, 53959 articles are published under Library and Information Science subject. The study also presents the statistical data of Library and Information Sciences Journals based on the elements like License Type, Journals published in different Languages, Country wise contribution and Review systems.

Keywords: *Open Access, Information Dissemination, Scholarly Publications, DOAJ, Article Processing Charges, Digital Commons, eJournals*

Introduction

Open access is a buzz word in recent days just because of its significant role in publishing research output online. The term Open Access refers that sharing of content, access to different kinds of materials, information, and technological codes for free. Open Access simply changes the traditional way of publishing into a new method of publishing and distributing research outputs online with unrestricted access. It offers less copyright and licensing barriers compare to the traditional methods of publishing and supports the users and the authors financially. It reduces the cost of publishing and support the readers do not require to pay for his / her content retrieval. Open access encourages the authors, research

scholars and students to publish their intellectual works freely with the support of internet. Open Access also provides a better opportunity to restructure the work of others. Generally, Open Access published works are distributed under a Creative Commons license which guides the authors how to use the articles and other materials. Sometimes, it grants a freedom to reuse the scholarly work.

The DOAJ was launched in 2003 at Lund University, Sweden. It started with 300 Open Access journals. It is an online database which publishes open access, high quality and peer-reviewed journals. It relies financial supports from volunteer sponsors. It collaborates with many organizations for membership, contracts for work and exchange of information services. All the journals listed in the DOAJ are indexed and available free to the public. It is an independent community-curated open access directory. At present it holds 15633 journals and 5474195 article records covering almost all the disciplines of the universe of the knowledge. The contents of 11357 journals out of 15633 of DOAJ can be accessible without Article Process Charges. The contents were published in 80 languages and represented by nearly 123 countries in the world.

Review of Literature:

Chakravarty (2020) stated that the LIS journals in DOAJ has signified their presence in 43 countries of world. He found that United States Published the highest number of Open Access LIS journals in DOAJ however India contributed only one. He also noted that the majority of the LIS journals prefer PDF formats and majority of the OA LIS journals have not mentioned their plagiarism policy. His study reveals that English was the most prominent language dissemination. Majority of the LIS journals do not hold the DOAJ seal while Double-blind peer reviewing is significantly followed in DOAJ LIS journals.

Shukla and Malsawmkimi (2017) discussed the Scientometric analysis of open access journals of library and information science based on Scopus. They identified 21 open access LIS journals for the research. The chosen journals were published in English language only. The authors notated that SJR would be the science quality indicator in future. The authors found that the journal “Library Philosophy and Practice” is most productive in library and information Science publications. Based on their further research on 3 years citations, “Library and Information Science Research” has the highest number of citations.

Rodrigues, Rosângela., Abadal, Ernest and Araújo, Breno. (2020) analyzed the main characteristics of publishers with journals that have received the DOAJ Seal. The authors aimed to identify publishers and journals registered with the DOAJ Seal, to characterize those publishers and to analyze their article processing fees. They used the following indicators like publisher, title, country, number of articles, knowledge area, article processing charges in USD, time for publication in weeks, and year of indexing in DOAJ. The authors revealed that a fast-rising oligopoly, dominated by Springer with 35% of the titles and PLOS with more than 20% of the articles. They have identified three models of expansion, a few titles with hundreds of articles, a high number of titles with a mix of big and small journals and a high number of titles with medium-size journals. They also found that a high number of titles without APCs (27%) in all areas while medicine was found to be the most expensive area.

Sahoo, Jyotshna., Birtia, Tuni and Mohanty, Basudev. (2017) presented a study based on the data taken from the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The authors explored quantitatively the inclusion of Library & Information Science Journal from several perspectives. They found that 158 LIS journals indexed in DOAJ published from 43 countries in 21 different languages. They stated that English is the dominant language of publication. They analyzed that the sustainability of LIS journals in open access domain is clearly reflected from the study.

Hugar (2019) examined the trend and growth of open access journals at a global level in the DOAJ portal from 2002 to 2018 on his paper Impact of Open Access Journals in DOAJ: An Analysis. He used stratified sampling method and since high number of journals indexed in DOAJ he has chosen around 5000 into consideration. 12,065 journals indexed in DOAJ during the period of his research. He revealed that the English Language being the most common for communication and publication and only few journals charges for publications. He was noted that 97% of the journals were peer-reviewed journals.

Sathish (2019) analyzed an Indian Research output contribution in Open Access journals indexed in DOAJ. His study lists out the statistical data according to country wise, year-wise, subject wise, Article processing fee, journals licensing from 2003 to May 2019. As analyzed in June 2019 India ranked 14th (n=277) open access journals worldwide. The growth rate of research output increased from the year 2016 (n=33) onwards.

Objectives:

This study focused on the following objectives:

- To find the list of Open Access Library and Information Science Journals in DOAJ.
- To analyze the License model, Review system and Article Processing Charges of Open Access LIS Journals in DOAJ.
- To assess the list of Journals have awarded with DOAJ Seal under Open Access LIS category.
- To list out the Year wise addition, Languages contribution and country wise distribution of Open Access LIS Journals in DOAJ.

Scope and Limitations of the study

This study limited to only the Open Access Journals published in the field of Library and Information Science and indexed in the directory of DOAJ and the data presented in this study based only on 17th December 2020.

Methodology

The data was collected from Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) using the URL <https://doaj.org/> and it was accessed on 17th December 2020 under the subject category Bibliography, Library Science, Information Science. The retrieved data were sorted by different category like License model, Languages, Article Processing Charges, Year wise addition, country wise distribution, DOAJ Seal and Review types. Finally, the organized data were formulated using Microsoft Excel 2013 and data given were analyzed and interpreted in the form of tables.

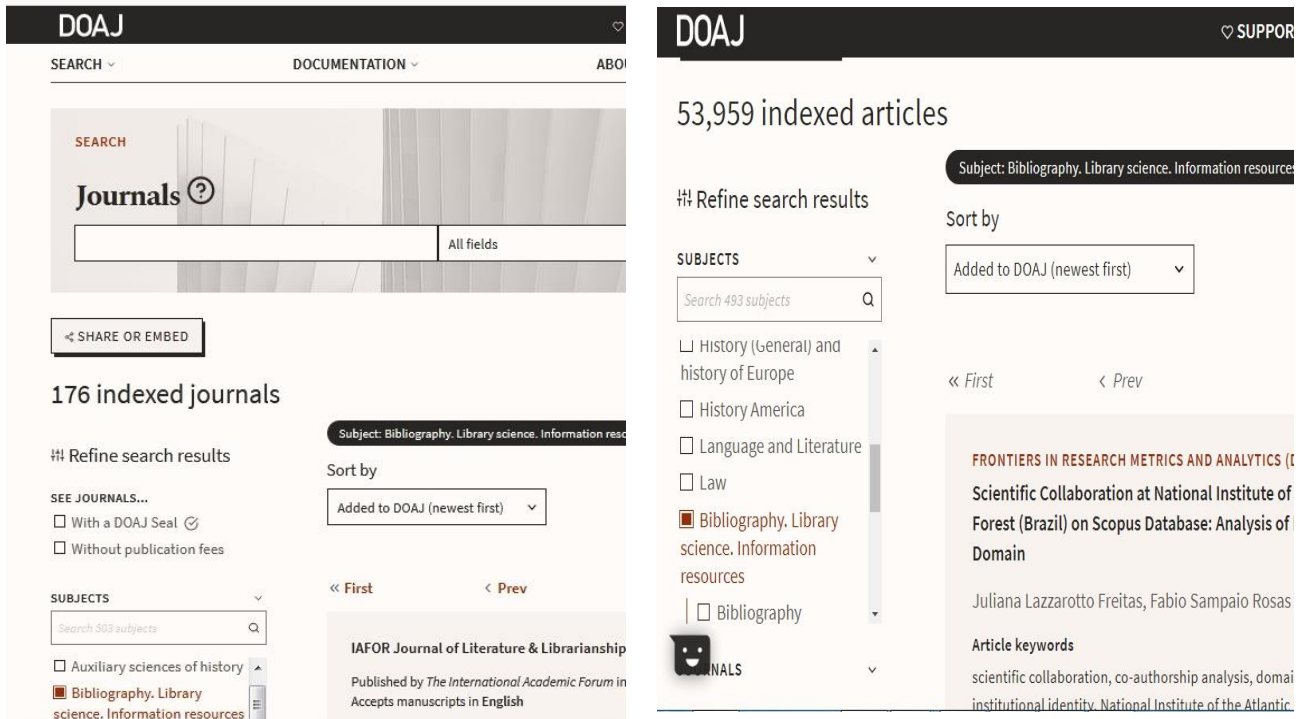
Findings of the Study:

List out the LIS Journals in DOAJ

Figure 1 displays the list of Library and Information Science related journals and articles indexed in DOAJ as on 17th December 2020.

Publications	Numbers
Journals	176
Articles	53959

Figure 1 –Journals and Articles



Article processing Charges

Table 1 provides 169 (96.02%) journals don't charge any article processing fee whereas 7 (3.98) journals require payments for publications.

Table 1 : Article processing Charges

Article processing charges (APCs)	No.	Percentage
No	169	96.02
Yes	7	3.98

DOAJ Seal

DOAJ awards the journals who have demonstrated best practice in open access publishing by providing DOAJ seal marked on the journals. Table 2 reveals that 15 (8.52%) journals have DOAJ seal on the Journals while majority of the journals 161 (%) don't have.

Table 2: DOAJ Seal

DOAJ Seal	No.	Percentage
No	161	91.48
Yes	15	8.52

Journal Licenses wise distribution

Table 3: Journal Licenses

Journal License	No.	Percentage
CC BY	75	42.61
CC BY-NC-ND	35	19.89
CC BY-NC	29	16.48
CC BY-NC-SA	18	10.23
CC BY-SA	14	7.95
CC BY-ND	3	1.7
Publisher's own	2	1.14
	176	100

According to the table 3, out of 176 journals, 75 (42.61%) journals have CC BY license, 35 (19.89%) journals comes under CC BY-NC-ND, 29 (16.48%) have CC BY-NC license followed by 18 (10.23%) journals uses CC BY-NC-SA, 14 (7.95%) journals have license, 3 (1.7%) uses CC BY-ND and 2 (1.14%) have publisher's own license.

Country wise distributions

Table 4: Countries Wise distribution

Country	No. of Journals	Percentage	Country	No. of Journals	Percentage
United States	28	15.91	Costa Rica	2	1.14
Brazil	25	14.20	Colombia	2	1.14
Spain	13	7.39	Argentina	2	1.14
Indonesia	12	6.82	Bulgaria	1	0.57

Poland	11	6.25	Serbia	1	0.57
United Kingdom	8	4.55	Russian Federation	1	0.57
Iran, Islamic Republic of	8	4.55	Portugal	1	0.57
Ukraine	7	3.98	Pakistan	1	0.57
Switzerland	5	2.84	Norway	1	0.57
Romania	4	2.27	Mexico	1	0.57
Italy	4	2.27	Malaysia	1	0.57
Germany	4	2.27	Lithuania	1	0.57
Canada	4	2.27	India	1	0.57
Cuba	3	1.70	Croatia	1	0.57
Netherlands	2	1.14	China	1	0.57
Korea, Republic of	2	1.14	Chile	1	0.57
France	2	1.14	No Information	15	8.52

Table 6 shows that United States published 28 (15.91%) Library and Information Science related journals in DOAJ online Directory. 25 (14.20%) journals were published from Brazil, Spain and Indonesia has been contributed 13 (7.39%), 12 (6.82) journals respectively. 28 countries published less than 10 (below 5%) journals and 15 journals do not have origin.

Language wise Distribution

Table 5 reveals that the majority of the journals 120 (68.18%) accept the manuscripts in English language. 41 (23.30%) journals of the total collections belong to Spanish Language, Portuguese places the next with 35 (19.89%) journals indexed in DOAJ. It is also seen from the table 5 that 21 languages accounts less than 12 (below 7%) journals published in Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Table 5: Languages wise Distribution

Language	Journals	Percentage
English	120	68.18
Spanish	41	23.30
Portuguese	35	19.89
Polish	11	6.25
Indonesian	10	5.68
French	9	5.11
German	9	5.11
Russian	9	5.11
Ukrainian	8	4.55
Italian	6	3.41

Chinese	4	2.27
Persian	4	2.27
Arabic	3	1.70
Catalan	3	1.70
Lithuanian	2	1.14
Romanian	2	1.14
Croatian	1	0.57
Czech	1	0.57
Finnish	1	0.57
Norwegian Bokmål	1	0.57
Serbian	1	0.57
Slovak	1	0.57
Swedish	1	0.57
Turkish	1	0.57

Review Types

Table 6: Review System

Review type	No	Percentage
Double Blind Peer Review	103	58.52
Peer Review	32	18.18
Blind Peer Review	29	16.48
Editorial Review	10	5.68
Open Peer Review	2	1.14

Based on the findings of the table 6, 103 (58.52%) journals use Double Blind Peer Review system, 32 (18.18%) journals follow Peer Review system, 29 (16.48%) journals undergo Blind Peer Review system where as Editorial review system is followed by 10 (5.68) journals and 2 (1.14) journals uses Open Peer Review.

Year-wise Data Distribution

The following table 7 unveils that 32 (18.18%) journals were added to DOAJ database during the year 2017. 18 (10.23%) journals were included with the existing collections in the years 2019 and 2020. In the year 2013 and 2018, 16 (9.09%) journals were added to DOAJ. The table also reveals that the following years 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009,

2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003, addition of new journals decreased to less than 15 (below 9%).

Table 7: Year of Addition

Year	No of Journals	Percentage
2020	18	10.23
2019	18	10.23
2018	16	9.09
2017	32	18.18
2016	14	7.95
2015	12	6.82
2014	1	0.57
2013	16	9.09
2012	9	5.11
2011	5	2.84
2010	6	3.41
2009	3	1.70
2008	4	2.27
2007	6	3.41
2006	6	3.41
2005	3	1.70
2004	2	1.14
2003	5	2.84

Conclusion:

DOAJ online directory enhances reputation and prominence of journals which is indexed in its database. It facilitates the author or the publishers to adopt a set of quality standards in publishing and promote the journals to be more attractive to the user. DOAJ works with skillful editorial team worldwide to assist and publish the contents of the indexed journals online which can be seen around the world.

This study summarizes the following findings;

- There were 176 Journals and are 53959 articles on Library and Information Science indexed in DOAJ.
- Most of the journals (96.02%) do not charge any fee for publications.
- 8.5% of Journals have been honoured with DOAJ seal.

- Majority of journals (68.18%) accept the manuscripts in English whereas Spanish (23.30%) and Portuguese (19.89%) being placed in second and third places respectively.
- 58.52% journals use Double Blind Peer Review.
- 75 (42.61%) journals use CC BY license.
- United States Published (15.91%) the highest number of Open Access LIS journals in DOAJ.
- In the year 2017 (18.18%) reached the maximum number of journals added in DOAJ.

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