Developing Qualitative Indicators for Journal Evaluation: Case Study of Library Science Journals of SAARC Countries

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper was to identify the existing criteria of various conventional databases that are considered in evaluating journals in the scholarship of library & information science (LIS) journals and accordingly developed a tool box to evaluate some selected journals of LIS in South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. Journals have been evaluated by applying 30 criteria based on the current measures used by Thompson Reuter, SCOPUS, SciELO, LISA, LISTA, etc. The result indicates that although there are a considerable number of journals being published in India since long time, only a few journals are qualitatively strong. The review policy as mentioned in documentation, subject coverage can be considered as their strength, the geographic non-diversity of members in Editorial Board, contributors are their weakness. Most of journals are indexed in LISA and LISTA, however no journals are yet to include in JCR. Overall, to cope-up with international standard journals need to consider their publication policy thoroughly. The findings of the study seems to be useful for (a) academics – to know the list of journals which adhere to the quality requirements of LIS discipline; (b) librarians – to know the core LIS journals of SAARC countries in LIS discipline for their clients; (c) policy makers – to measure the weightage of publication, while evaluating performance for career and promotion, to evaluate individual research performance, while releasing grants for academic projects.

Keywords: Scholarship assessment, evaluation of journals, qualitative study, LIS journals, SAARC–LIS journals

1. INTRODUCTION

Joshua Lederberg (the Nobel Prize recipient) in his speech entitled 'Communication as the Root of Scientific Progress'[1] indicated the significance of scholarly literature, scholarly publishing and scholarly communication for the progress of science. Traditional forms of formal scholarly communication are research articles, letters, memos, conferences, technical reports, monographs, edited books, etc. Kling & Callhan[2] categorise various forms of scholarly communication as:

(a) Social and socio-technical research literature like e-journals, research monographs, specialised research conference;

(b) Technological research literature which includes analytical examination of technological standards and design strategies;

(c) Practitioner literature (professional writing) where primary audience includes publishers, librarians, academic administrators and faculty who may publish in e-media, organise electronic collections, evaluate such electronic publications; and

(d) Scholarly electronic forums.

All these genres have well defined advantages and disadvantages. However, among all, the well accepted form of scholarly communication is social and socio-technical research literature especially journals or its electronic counterpart e-journals. This type of literature is not only efficient in providing most up-to-date and advanced information but it also fulfills certification requirement rather well because it also provides reviewed output as print. The main focus of this study is to address qualitative issues related primarily to the social and socio-technical research literature especially journals that are widely used for formal system of scholarly communication.

A number of journals are prevailing today in the discipline of library and information science. Academic promotion and tenure decisions take into consideration the significance of a candidate's

publications. However, we do not have any mechanism to measure quality of an article with others. One criterion may be the citation and impact. However, this has not always been the case for the journals of this region because of very little coverage for journals in international citation databases of this region. The intention of the present study is to develop uniform criteria of evaluating quality of journal which is not based on the quantitative issues related with publications. Very little research has used qualitative methods to evaluate LIS journal quality.

SAARC is acronym used for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, which is an association of eight developing nations of South Asian region. It was officially established in 1985 with the cooperation of governments of Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. A new member Afghanistan has joined this group in 2007. The study covers the evaluation of LIS journals in the member countries of this Association.

2. LIS JOURNAL PUBLISHING IN SAARC COUNTRIES

Among the SAARC countries, India was the first to start a LIS journal, entitled '*Library Miscellany*' in 1912, published by State library department, Baroda. It stopped publishing in 1920, but it opened the way for publishing journals in the field of LIS in India. After that many associations and institutions related to library and information science research were established in India. A few of them engaged to promote LIS education and research in India, a large number, however, of them established just to start publishing journals in LIS field.

In 1933 Indian Library Association (ILA) came into existence. ILA published *Library Bulletin* (1942 to 1946) and ABGILA (which was a combo of three journals *Annals*, *Bulletin* and *Granthalaya* of ILA) from 1949 to 1952. From 1953 the nomenclature of these journals was changed to *ILA Bulletin*. In 2011, again its name changed to *Journal of Indian Library Association* (JILA).

In Pakistan, the LIS journal publications started after the establishment of Pakistan Library Association in 1964. The first LIS publication, The *Pakistan Library Bulletin* (PLB), came out in 1968. This only journal of Pakistan is entitled as *Pakistan Journal of Library & Information Science* (PJLIS) after 2003.

In Bangladesh there are two well known publications in field of Library and Information Science: *The Eastern Librarian* (EL) started its publication in 1965 by Library Association of Bangladesh followed by *Bangladesh Journal of Library and Information Science* (BJLIS) which started publishing in 1998.

In Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) founded in 1960, and started publishing of *Sri Lanka Library Review*. There are two more publications entitled as: *Journal of University Librarians Association* (JULA) of Sri Lanka and *Sri Lankan Journal of Librarianship & Information management* (SLLIM).

In Nepal *TULSSAA*: *A Journal of Library and Information Science* is the only publication in this field, published by Tribhvuan University Library Science Students' Alumni Association. In Afghanistan, *KETAB*, publication in this field, published by Kabul Public Library. Another two member countries of this association are Bhutan and Maldives which have no publications in field of library and information science.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Examining the literature in scholarly communication, it has been found that LIS journals are evaluated by various quantitative and qualitative techniques other than the impact factor[3-7]. Day & Peter[8] and later Nkereuwem[9] used qualitative methods to ask subscribers and authors, plus some editors and editorial advisors, as to what they thought about the quality of a journal[10].

In a study, Nisonger[11] provided a list of published studies of LIS journals as well as a list of the criteria used to compile the citation ranking of the journals in these studies. The 178 LIS journals studied by him were classified in terms of criteria used and fell predominantly into four categories of citation (94 studies), production (33 studies), subjective judgment (25), and reading (18 studies). The remaining 8 studies used miscellaneous criteria such as familiarity, readability/ reading ease, currency of citation, etc. Rousseau[12] summarised the 10 characteristics of a 'quality' journal by reviewing Zwemer[13], Garfield[14], and Testa[15]. These ten criteria are:

(1) Acceptance and rejection rates;

(2) Subject and geographical representativeness of the editorial board;

(3) Use of a critical refereeing system;

(4) Promptness of publication;

(5) Coverage by major abstracting and indexing services;

(6) High confidence level of scientists using the journal in its contents;

(7) High frequency of citation by other journals (impact);

(8) Inclusion of abstracts/summaries in English;

(9) Providing author(s) addresses (author reputation score); and

(10) Providing complete bibliographic information.

4. OBJECTIVES

The present study has been undertaken to confirm whether quality indicator of journal evaluation can be considered as a supplementary method of evaluation for journals which are yet to be indexed in JCR. As a case study, the researchers began in LIS discipline.

The objective of the present study are to:

- Develop a mechanism for evaluating journal quality at par with conventional indexing databases for those journals where quality assessment through IF is unavailable.

- Evaluate quality of LIS journals originated from SAARC countries by applying the developed criteria.

5. METHODOLOGY

The overall methodology for this study consisted of two stages: identification, and evaluation. To identify the journals of the SAARC region, along with Ulrich International Periodical Directory (2012) following web directories were also consulted:

- Directory of Open Access Journals (Lund University Library)

- IndianJournals.com

- Indian Citation Index

- SCOPUS

- EBSCOhost

- Open J-Gate, and

- Database of Indian Journals of DST

To judge and evaluate journal, established criteria as laid down by five most popular indexing and abstracting databases for incorporating journals into their databases were consulted. They are: Thomson Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) Database, SCOPUS database; Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) database, Brazil; MEDLINE database; and Ulrich International Periodical Directory of R.R. Bowker (2012). On consulting these criteria a toolbox of 30 criteria has been developed. The newly developed criteria were deployed to 20 LIS journal of Indian origin along with 8 LIS journals of rest of the other countries from SAARC region. A framework of criteria is mentioned in Table 1.

6. RESULTS

Table 1 shows the 30 criteria for evaluation of journal which were identified. On the other hand, Table 2 shows the basic information of 20 selected LIS journals of SAARC countries. Applying 30 criteria

Table 1. Criteria for evaluation of journal

S. No.	Criteria	Explanation
1.	Standardised number	Whether the journals have any ISSN number?
2.	Nature of publishing & sponsoring body	Whether non-profit or for profit-based institute?
3.	Longevity	Total year of existence
4.	Promptness in publication	How far the journal maintained regularity in publication?
5.	Declaration of review policy	Whether clear review policy is mentioned in the journal documentation?
6.	Nature of review policy	Double-blind, blind or open peer review?
7.	Internationality of Editorial Board	Of the total member, percentage of international members
8.	Percentage of editorial member from same organisation	Of the total members, percentage of members from same organisation?
9.	Subject expertise of Chief-Editor	Whether Chief-Editor belongs to LIS?
10.	Standing of Editor	*h-index* value of Chief Editor, if any?
11.	Geographic diversity of contributors	No. of contributions outside from the journals' country of origin.
12.	Journal structure	Whether journals mention its scope, coverage, author guidelines?
13.	Availability of contents	Print and/or online?
14.	Archive availability	Whether archive available?
15.	Index availability	Whether index available?
16.	Ethics of publication	Publication ethics mentioned?
17.	Scholarly forms of text	Various forms of text available: article, review, short communication, commentaries, letter-to-editor?
18.	Structure of articles	Whether article contains affiliation of author, contact details, expressive title, and abstract?
19.	Structure of article contents	Whether an individual published article contains introduction, objective, research problem, methods, results, and discussion, etc.? Whether DOI, keywords are available with article?
20.	Illustrations in articles	How many colored and how many black & white?
21.	Quantity of article published	Average number of papers per issue?
22.	Article and abstract length	Standard means length of 10 randomly selected articles and abstracts
23.	International perspective of paper	Out of 20 randomly selected papers how many of national importance, how many international importance?

24.	Procedure of submission and file format allowed	If available online or offline or both
25.	Accessibility of journal	Whether journal is accessible through dedicated server?
26.	Article tracking process	Whether article's posting, revision, and publication date available?
27.	Acceptance/rejection rate	If acceptance/rejection rate mention?
28.	Indexeing in conventional database	LISA (S), LISTA (T), WOS (W), SCOPUS (S)
29.	Journal usage	Are journal usage statistics available?
30.	Citation value of journals	Number of citation received for article published in 2011

Table 2. Library & Information Science journals

S. No.	Journal name	Country	Frequency	Year of start	Publisher type
1.	*Annals of Library & Information Science (ALIS)*	India	Quarterly	1954	Non-profit
2.	*DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology (DJLIT)*	India	Bi-Monthly	1980	Non-profit
3.	*Journal of Indian Library Association (JILA)*	India	Quarterly	1964	Non-profit
4.	*IASLIC Bulletin*	India	Quarterly	1956	Non-profit
5.	*SRELS Journal of Information Management (SJIM)*	India	Bi- Monthly	1964	Non-profit
6.	*Herald of Library & Information Science*	India	Quarterly	1969	Non-profit
7.	*Collnet Journal of Information Management*	India	Half Yearly	2007	Commercial
8.	*Library Progress*	India	Half Yearly	1981	Organisational
9.	*Professional Journal of Library and Information Technology*	India	Bi- Annual	2010	Commercial
10.	*ISST Journal of Advances in Librarianship*	India	Bi-Annual	2010	Non-profit
11.	*Gyankosh the Journal of Library and Information and Management*	India	Quarterly	2010	Non-profit
12.	*Pearl Journal of Library and Information Science*	India	Quarterly	2007	Non-profit
13.	*Journal of Knowledge and Communication Management*	India	Half Yearly	2011	Non-profit
14.	*Information Studies*	India	Quarterly	1955	Non-profit
15.	*SALIS Journal of Information Management and Technology*	India	Half Yearly	2002	Non-profit
16.	*SALIS Journal of Library & Information Science*	India	Quarterly	2002	Non- Profit
17.	*Journal of Library and Information Science*	India	Half Yearly	1976	Non-profit
18.	*e-library Science Research Journal*	India	Bi-Monthly	2012	Commercial
19.	*Indian Journal of Library & Information Science*	India	Bi-Monthly	2007	Commercial
20.	*Journal of Scientometric Research*	India	Triennial	2012	Commercial
21.	*Sri Lanka Library Review*	Sri Lanka	Annual	1987	Non-profit
22.	*Journal of University Librarians Association (JULA)*	Sri Lanka	Bi-Annual	1997	Non-profit
23.	*Sri Lankan Journal of Librarianship & Information Management*	Sri Lanka	Bi-Annual	2006	Non-profit
24.	*Pakistan Journal of Library and Information*	Pakistan	Annual	1968	Non-profit
25.	*The Eastern Librarian*	Bangladesh	-	1961	Non-profit
26.	*Bangladesh Journal of Library and Information Science*	Bangladesh	Bi-Annual	1998	Non-profit
27.	*TULSSAA*	Nepal	Quarterly	2000	Non-profit
28.	*KETAB*	Afghanistan	-		

as mentioned in Table 1, qualititative features of 20 journals were measured. The result is indicated in *Annexure-I*. Few striking issues which are different from journal to journal are:

6.1 Standardised Number-Publication System

All most all identified journals of SAARC countries have the ISSN number. Out of 20 selected Indian journals, 7 journals had different ISSN number for their online version. However, it was dificult to identify any separate ISSN number for online edition of any eight journals of the rest of the SAARC countries. *PJLIS, EL, BJLIS, SLR, SLLIM, JULA, TULSSAA, KETAB* all these journals although available on web, they are only the web version of print edition.

6.2 Nature of Publishing and Sponsoring Body

Of the total 20 Indian LIS journals, 12 journals are being published by non-profit organisations and academics and all journals from rest of the SAARC countries are being published by such organisations. Commercial bodies have shown little interest in publishing LIS journals as there are only few commercial bodies including Taru Publication, New Delhi; Priyanka Research Journal Publication, Tamilnadu; E-library Science Research Journal (LSRJ), Solapur are involved in publishing LIS journals from India (Table 2).

6.3 Longevity

Exploring longevity issue reveals that *JILA* (79 years) is the oldest journal (although in different name) in Indian LIS publication history followed by *ALIS* (60 years), and *IASLIC Bulletin* (56 years). The *SRELS* (48), and *DJLIT* (32) are another two important journals in Indian LIS journal history among the rest of the SAARC countries, *The Eastern Librarian* (48 years) of the Bangladesh, *Pakistan Journal of Library and Information science* (45 years) of Pakistan and *Sri Lanka Library Review* (27 years) of Sri Lanka are three prestigious journals that are surviving since last few decades.

6.4 Promptness in Publication

To judge this criterion, the publications promptness was categorised under four categories: Fully regular (FR), mostly regular (MR), mostly irregular (MIR), and consecutively irregular (CIR). Subsequently it was also verified whether the journal has published any combined issue in the last 5 years. The results indicate that of the total 20 Indian LIS journal 7 journals have maintained complete regularity while 4 journals were mostly regular, and 6 journals awere mostly irregular. Regularity status of three journals were not available. In contrast, no journals of the rest of SAARC countries were completely regular. These journals were either mostly regular or mostly irregular. The TULSSAA journal of Nepal has published issues in consecutively irregular manner.

6.5 Declaration and Nature of Review Policy

The term 'peer-review' or 'refereed' means a process where the experts or review boards in the field of expertise examining the journal articles before acceptance for publication. Although, it is difficult to ascertain the genuiness of review process as it mentioned in their documentation, the study indicates that, three journals of India and one journal of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan each have blind/double-blind review policy. Otherwise, most of the journals have mentioned that they follow peer-review policy to maintain quality of article. The declaration of review policy is absent in six Indian journals.

6.6 Internationality of Editorial Members

Regarding internationally of Editorial Board, the results indicate that 60 % editorial members of *COLLNET Journal of Scientometric and Information Management* (hereinafter *COLLNET Journal*) and 50 % members of *Journal of Scientometric Research* are from outside India. Otherwise five Indian journals have up to 20 % international editors and remaining twelve journals do not have any member from outside India. While in the case of remaining SAARC countries, one journal of Sri Lanka (*Sri Lankan Journal of Librarianship & Information Management*), Pakistan (*Pakistan Journal of Library & Information Science*), and Bangladesh (*The Eastern Librarian*) each have international members in their Editorial Board.

6.7 Editor's Qualification

It may be assumed that improper subject expertise of editors leads to imbalances in journal content as editors focus on issues they understand and omit papers on subjects that leave them lacking in confidence. It is shown in Annexure I that, although editors of all the journals of SAARC countries are from LIS discipline, their expertise is non-measurable. Additionally, the calculated *h-index* is unavailable of these editors as their publication profile is yet to index in Google Scholar.

6.8 Geographic Diversity of Contributors

If a journal has international readership and known internationally, it may have international contributors too. The geographic diversity of author was measured by analysing all articles of 10 randomly selected issues of the journal for at least 5 years. Among selected SAARC journals highest proportion of internationality among contributors has been observed in *Journal of Scientometric Research* (0.5) followed by *COLLNET Journal of Scientometric and Information Management* (0.3) and *Library Progress* (0.3). The geographic diversity among contributors of other journals of SAARC countries is mentioned in *Annexure-I*.

6.9 Journal Structure

Almost all LIS journals of India and other SAARC countries mention the scope, coverage, and author guidelines in their journal. On the other hand, of the total 20 journals, 9 journals of India and 4 journals of rest of the SAARC countries do not mention any standard reference pattern that author need to follow while submitting articles. It is important to note that no journal has yet mentioned the publication ethics they follow while publishing article. In fact such practice may be common in publishing of journals in developing countries. COPE forum and SHERPA/RoMEO project have an intension to spread publication ethics among editors and journal publishers.

6.10 Structure of Articles

The study shows that of the total 20 selected journals, all journals' articles are written in structured manner, however, 5 journals do not mention keywords in the article. Keywords are important for understanding the subject of the document. All present days' search engine use to index the keywords and keywords in article helps searcher to retrieve document easily and likely to optimising visibility of article.

6.11 Length of Paper and Abstract

Fixed word limits for the article and abstract makes the author to be focused on writing the basic or main idea of the conducted research. It increases clarity and helps the author to explain the idea concisely. Also from the editors' point of view, it is easy to review short or articles written in limited words.

6.12 Internationality of Article

As indicated in *Annexure–I, COLLNET Journal* have highest internationality of article, followed by *ALIS*, *DJLIT* and *Pearl Journal of Library & Information Science*. For journals of the rest of the SAARC countries such internationality is varied within a small range.

6.13 Coverage of Conventional Database

It is expected that inadequate indexing of articles in conventional databases is a serious barrier to access. The results indicate that although most of the LIS journals of SAARC regions are indexed either in LISA or LISTA, except two journals, viz. *ALIS* & *DJLIT,* other journals are yet to index in SCOPUS or *Web of Science*.

6.14 Citation Value

The citation value by using Google Scholar (GS) was also measured. As the coverage of GS of quite broad than other databases, attempts were made to know average citation received by the journal for a particular period. *DJLIT* have the highest citation per article followed by *Journal of Scientometric Research* and *ALIS*. The citation profile of other Indian journal is like other SAARC countries which is very nominal except *Pakistan Journal of Library and Information Science*.

7. DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The intention of this study was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of LIS journals of SAARC countries. Few notable points are:

ISSN has been found in all LIS journals of SAARC countries along with eight journals, many of them have separate ISSN for their web edition too. A common question may arise at this point that can mere ISSN be considered as criteria of evaluating journal? In fact, ISSN number only gives the recognition of the journals in the International Serials Directory Database; probably it cannot be used as the indicator of quality.

The study indicates that non-profit organisations and academic institutions are playing an important role in promoting LIS scholarly research in the SAARC region. Most of these organisations are government-funded and some of them are professional societies of LIS field in the SAARC region. For the betterment of this discipline in this region more involvement of these organisations are the good sign for the overall prospect of the discipline.

If it can consider that the longevity of a journal might have an relation with the acceptability of the journal among peers, its strong organisational support as well as defined publication policy, it may be explained that three Indian journal namely *JILA, ALIS* and *IASLIC Bulletin* must have such acceptability, support and publication policy. However, correlating longevity of journal with the promptness of publication, it has observed that most of the journals with long publication history are irregular in publication. Except *ALIS*, *DJLIT*, *SERELS* most of the journals do not maintain the regularity in publication. The possible reasons may be multi-fold, including professional commitment of the organisation and members of that organisation, lack of finance and unable to cope-up with the changing need of the profession are some other reasons. However, at this point it is difficult to explain any specific reason. These may be considered as weakness of the journals.

Exploring journal's documentation, it has observed that 14 out of 20 (70 %) LIS journals of India and 7 out of 8 (85 %) journals other SAARC countries have international standard of review policy. Although, it is difficult to ascertain how far the review process as mentioned in the *journal's* documentation is correct, it is the bare expectation from a journal that it should mention its policy to review the article before publishing. Absence of such information is a serious phenomenon for any journal.

One of the common policies of international databases was observed that they include only those journals which have geographically diversified editorial board members. However, of the total twenty Indian journals, only nine journals have such International members in Editorial Board. This may be one of the major reasons for non-inclusion of Indian LIS journals in conventional databases. Further, inclusion of Editorial Board members from same organisation may be another weakness of such journal as institutional diversity among members is considered as one of the strengths of the journal.

Another major drawback of few journals (22 %) was absence of keywords in the article. In some instances, it was observed that few articles contained keywords while other articles of the same journal and in same issue did not. Digital Object Identifier (DOI) was also absent in almost all journals in

SAARC countries (except 4 journals, viz., *COLLNET Journal*, *Journal of Scientometric Research*, *The Eastern Librarian*, and *Bangladesh Journal of Library & Information Science*) which may also considered as a major weakness of these journals.

To include journals in the international databases like SCOPUS, *WOS*, journal should adopt online submission system. However, such option is unavailable in most of the journals of this region. In this study, it was also observed that no journal of SAARC region include information relating to submission date, revision in the article. Due to that it is difficult to guess the time-lag between publications. The absence of information like rate of acceptance is another important drawback of these journals.

The coverage of journals in bibliographic databases is limited. LISA and LISTA are two major databases where journals are indexed. No journals of these regions are yet to index in *WOS* and SCOPUS (except *ALIS* & *DJLIT*). This may be because of the fact that no journals of this region are yet to attain the level of qualifing criteria that international databases fix for inclusion of the journal in databases. Due to that, the articles of most of the journals are not widely visible as the average rate of citation per article is low. To gain wide visibility, inclusion of journals in databases like *WOS*, SCOPUS is essential which these journals lack.

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Annexure-I

Evaluation of journal

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Standardise Number	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Authority	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	FP	NP	FP	NP	NP	NP	FP	NP
Longevity	60	31	79	56	48	50	5	31	2	3	3	5	2	17
Promptness in publication	FR	FR	MIR	MIR	FR	MIR	MR	MR	MIR	MIR	FR	FR	MIR	FR
Declaration of review policy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Nature of review policy	DBR	BR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	NA	PR	NA	PR	PR	NA
Internationality in editorial board	13.3	0	0	0	0	NA	61.7	18.5	0	0	32.2	0	0	0
Percentage of editorial member from same organisation				17.6	20		NA	7.4			6.4	8.3		14.2
Whether Chief-Editor belongs to subject concerned?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Standing of Editor (*h*-index value of Chief Editor)	0	2	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geographic diversity of contributors	20	10	0	0	0	0	30	30	0	0	20	20	10	10
Journal structure (whether journals mention its)														
About	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Coverage	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Author Guide	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Availability of contents														
Print	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Online	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Whether back issues of the journal are available?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Whether content is accessible through various meta tags?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Publication ethics mention?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Scholarly forms of text														
Article	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Reviews	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Short Communication	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Letter to Editor	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Structure of articles														
Name, Affiliation & Contact details of author(s)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Expressive Title	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Availability of abstract	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Structure of article contents	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
DOI	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Keyword (% of article contains)	0	100	80	N	100	0	100	100	80	100	90	0	100	100
Illustrations in articles : Percentage of coloured	40	20	20	20	0	NA	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of black/white	60	80	80	80	100	NA	50	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Quantity of article published	9	9	5	5	4	7	6	5	4	4	4	5	7	9
Article and abstract length	AS/ TS	AM/ TS	AM/ TS	AM/ TL	AL/ TS	Y	AM/ TS	AM/ TS	NA	AM/ TS	AM/ TS	AL/ TM	AM/ TM	AM/ TS
International perspective of articles (in percent)	70	70	30	20	40	0	80	40	0	30	10	50	20	20
Procedure of submission														
Online	EM/ ES	EM/ ES	EM	EM	N	N	EM	EM	EM	EM	ES	EM	EM	ES
Offline	CF	PF		CD	CF	PF		PF	PF	PF		CF	CF	CF
Online accessibility of Journal	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Article tracking process	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Rate of acceptance mention?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Conventional database indexed: LISA (S), LISTA (T), Both (B)	B	B	B	S	S	N	B	S	N	N	N	N	N	N
WOS (W) , SCOPUS (S)	S	S	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Journal usage statistics available?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Citation value of Journals	0.94	1.17	0.0	0.0	0.12	0.0	0.53	0.06	0.0	0.0	0.07	0.21	0.0	0.13

Criteria	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Standardise Number	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Authority	NO	NP	NP	NA	FP	NP	FP	NP	FP	NP	NP	NP	FP	NP
Longevity	3	3	36	1	6	1	27	17	7	48	14	45	2	11
Promptness in publication			MR	FR	MR		MR	MIR	MIR	MIR	MIR	MIR	NA	CIR
Declaration of review policy	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Nature of review policy	NA	NA	NA	PR	PR	PR	PR	BR	BR	PR	BR	BR	NA	PR
Internationality in editorial board	6.1	17.9	0	53.8	20	50	0	0	85.7	33.3	0	45	NA	0
Percentage of editorial member from same organisation	2.04	NA	100	NA	NA	10	12	25	NA	41.6	NA	30	NA	NA
Whether Chief-Editor belongs to subject concerned?	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Standing of Editor (h-index value of Chief Editor)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0
Geographic diversity of contributors	NA	NA	0	0	10	50	10	10	20	10	20	0	NA	10
Journal structure (whether journals mention its)														
About	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Coverage	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Author Guide	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Availability of contents														
Print	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Online	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Whether back issues of the journal are available?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Whether content is accessible through various meta tags?	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	NA	N	N	N	N	NA	N
Publication ethics mention?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NA	N
Scholarly forms of text														
Article	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Reviews	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Short Communication	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	NA	Y	N	N	N	N	NA	N
Letter to Editor	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	NA	N	N	Y	N	N	NA	Y
Structure of articles														
Name, Affiliation & Contact details of author(s)	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Expressive Title	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	NA	N
Availability of abstract	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y
Structure of article contents	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	N
DOI	NA	NA	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	NA	N
Keyword (% of article contains)	NA	NA	100	100	100	100	60	100	100	100	100	100	NA	0
Illustrations in articles : Percentage of coloured	NA	NA	0	10	0	90	NA	NA	0	10	0	10	NA	0
Percentage of Black/white	NA	NA	100	90	100	10	40	20	100	90	100	90	NA	100
Quantity of article published	NA	NA	12	5	9	10	4	4	2	5	7	7	NA	5

Article and abstract length	NA	NA	AM/TM	NA	AL/TM	AL/TS	AM/TS	AL/TS	AL/TS	AL/TS	AM/TS	AM/TS	NA	AL/TM
International perspective of articles (in percent)	NA	NA	0	10	NA	NA	20	40	20	20	30	20	NA	0
Procedure of submission														
Online	EM	EM	EM	EM	ES	ES	EM	ES	EM	MS	MS	EM	NA	EM
Offline	PF	PF	**CF**	CD	CD	ESS	**CF**	N	CD	EM	**N**	N	NA	EM
Online accessibility of Journal	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NA	N
Article tracking process	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NA	N
Rate of acceptance mention?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NA	N
Conventional database indexed: LISA (S), LISTA (T), Both (B)	N	N	S	N	N	N	S	N	N	S	N	S	NA	N
WOS (W), SCOPUS (S)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NA	N
Journal usage statistics available?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	NA	N
Citation value of Journals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.00	0.0	0.0	0.50	0.0	0.0	1.00	NA	0.0

Journals:

India–*1. Annals of Library & Information Studies, 2. DESIDOC Journal of Library Information Technology, 3. Journal of Indian Library Association, 4. IASLIC Bulletin, 5. SRELS Journal of Information Management, 6. Herald of Library & Information Science, 7. COLLNET Journal, 8. Library Progress, 9. Professional Journal of Library & Information Technology, 10. ISST Journal of Advances in Librarianship, 11. Gyankosh, 12. Pearl Journal of Library & Information Science, 13. Journal of Knowledge & Communication Management, 14. Information Studies, 15. SALIS Journal of Information Management and Technology, 16. SALIS Journal of Library & Information Science, 17. Journal of Library & Information Science, 18. e-library Science Research Journal, 19. Indian Journal of Library & Information Science, 20. Journal of Scientometric Research;*
Sri Lanka–*21. Sri Lanka Library Review, 22. Journal of University Librarians Association (JULA) of Sri Lanka, 23. Sri Lankan Journal of Librarianship and Information Management;*
Bangladesh–*24. The Eastern Librarian, 25. Bangladesh Journal of Library and Information Science;*
Pakistan–*26. Pakistan Journal of Library and Information;*
Afghanistan–*27. KETAB;*
Nepal–*28. TULSAA.*

Legends: Not-for-profit = NP, For profit = FP. Fully Regular = FR, Mostly Regular = MR, Mostly Irregular = MIR, Consecutively Irregular = CIR, Blind Review = BR, Double Blind Review = DBR, Peer Review = PR, NA = Not accessible.

Legends: AL = Abstract below 100 words, AM = abstract between 101-250 words and AS = abstract 251 to 500 words. TL = Word length of article below 2500 words, TM = between 2501-5000 words, TS = >5001 words. EM = E-mail, ES = Electronic Submission, MS = E-mail + ESS, CF-CD/Floppy, PF= Hard Copy, CD-Both Hard copy and CD.