

Unfolding the 33 years saga of *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology*

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The article gives an historical account of the *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology*. It highlights that from a humble beginning as a newsletter, it has gone on to become one of India's leading journal in the field of library and information science.

Keywords: *DJLIT*; LIS Journal; *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology*

Introduction

Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC) started functioning in 1958 as Scientific Information Bureau (SIB) a division of the Defence Science Laboratory (DSL), which later became Defence Science Centre and now Laser Science & Technology Centre (LASTEC). The DRDO library, which had its beginning in 1948, became a Division of SIB in 1959. After reorganising its activities, on 4 May 1967 the SIB was renamed as Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC) under the administrative control of DSL. It became a self-accounting establishment of DRDO on 29 July 1970. DESIDOC is providing scientific and technical information required by the scientific and technical community in DRDO HQs/labs/estts across the country for R&D purposes. Today, DESIDOC is a central resource for providing scientific information, documentation, library, reprographic, translation and printing services to the DRDO HQ/labs/estts and other establishment of Ministry of Defence and coordinates DRDO scientific information programmes. DESIDOC had set up its publishing wing, bringing out many publications including *Defence Science Journal*, Popular S&T series, R&D digest; etc.

During early 80's, it was felt to bring out an in-house bulletin, published monthly, dedicated to popularise the library and information activities and services of DESIDOC to the outside world. So, the in-house bulletin *DESIDOC Bulletin* was brought out in January 1981.

The 1981 issues of *DESIDOC Bulletin* covered such items as library activities, translation, meetings, courses organised, details of papers published by DESIDOC personnel, advertisements, etc. It was only dedicated in covering the activities/services of DESIDOC. From January 1985 onwards it started covering activities/services of other Technical Information Centers (TICs)/Libraries of DRDO. Each issue started including one article on state-of-the-art in an area of documentation/information technology. Also from 1985 onwards *DESIDOC Bulletin* was made bi-monthly. The issues from 1985 onwards covered 'articles' along with sections such as 'News and Notes' 'DESIDOC Activities' 'Current Literature in Information Science' and other related information. In January 1987, 'Focus Articles' were started publishing articles on topics of interest in the field of LIS. From 1987, the objective was to bring out current developments in information science and technology to the notice of the information specialists

in the Ministry. Along with other sections a new section 'New products' was introduced.

In January 1991, the *DESIDOC Bulletin* was changed to *DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology* with the scope to include one focused article. It started covering Article and section such as Information Technology Events covering the forthcoming events', Information Technology Scan covering new technologies applicable to LIS centers; Current Literature Survey covering new articles in the field of library and information science; Book Reviews covering reviews of recently released books and DRDO Information activities. In 1994, research and review articles were invited from eminent professionals/experts in LIS fields for contributing to the journal. Then special issues were also brought out from January 1995 onwards. As an outcome, in 1995, five special issues were brought out which was an outstanding achievement. All the issues were highly appreciated. During that period, papers were invited from authors to contribute research papers for the journal.

In the meeting of Editorial Board held on 19th September 2007, it was suggested to change the name of *DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology* to *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* to attract more quality papers. The title of the Journal was changed in January 2008. The Journal also received new ISSN number in December 2007. It was also decided that the Journal will only cover focused articles which were peer-reviewed.

The objective of *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* is to bring recent developments in information technology applicable to library and information science, to the notice of librarians, documentation and information professionals, students and others interested in the field. In 2013 issue, it has completed thirty-three successful years of its continued publication. Guest editors were specially invited to bring out special issues covering topics like Scientometrics, Online Exhibitions, Knowledge Organization, Corporate Social Responsibility, Intellectual Property Rights, Semantic Web, Ontology, Digital Preservation and so on.

The screenshot displays the homepage of the DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology. The page features a green header with the journal's title. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, LOG IN, REGISTER, SEARCH, CURRENT, ARCHIVES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, SPECIAL ISSUES PUBLISHED, FEEDBACK, and FAQ. The main content area includes a search box, a 'JOURNAL CONTENT' sidebar with 'Browse' options (By Issue, By Author, By Title, Other Journals), and a central section for the current issue (Vol 34, No 3 (2014)). The central section contains the journal title, ISSN (0974-0643), eISSN (0976-4658), and a DOI link. Below this is a paragraph describing the journal's mission and a section for 'Abstracting and Indexing Information' listing various databases. A 'For new Authors' section provides registration instructions and contact information. The bottom of the page shows the 'Global Impact Factor' for 2012 (0.452) and 2013 (0.645). On the right side, there are utility sections for 'FONT SIZE', 'USER' login, 'INFORMATION' links, 'CURRENT ISSUE' with volume/issue numbers, and 'NOTIFICATIONS'.

Fig. 1—Snapshot of Open Journal Systems of *DJLIT*

Automation in editorial and printing processes

Prior to 1991, the handwritten manuscripts were submitted only. Then papers were accepted in compuscripts (in e-format). WordStar software was used for manuscript processing. In 1992, Ventura was used as publishing software. Later, Ventura 5 and Corel Ventura 8 were introduced which was used till 2006. In 2007, PageMaker version 4.0 software was used for publishing and subsequently newer versions were used. In 2011, Indesign version CS5.5 (7.5) software was used as DTP software. Since, mid-nineties the manuscripts were being received in typed format or word-compatible format. Presently, all the manuscripts are received in word/rtf/pdf format.

From 2007, the Journal started using Open Journal Systems Software to further speed up the editorial and refereeing processes thereby reducing the time taken from submission to acceptance of papers. It assists every stage of the refereed publishing process through its online interface, from submissions to online publication and indexing. A snapshot of the Online Journal System of *DJLIT* is shown in Figure 1.

The authors can register themselves on the Journal's website and are able to track the progress of their papers online. The reviewers can also register themselves. A database of reviewers is maintained through OJS along with their expertise. The reviewers are selected through this database and request is sent through this system only. The reviewers send their review reports through it. A quick upload option that bypasses this system also exists for publishers that are in favour of their current workflow or would like to mount archival issues through which the back volumes were published in a single go. E-mail notification and commenting ability for readers and reviewers is available and is extensively used.

Editorial Boards

In 1987, an in-house Editorial Board consisting of scientists/officers of DESIDOC was formed to set the tone and direction the publication's editorial policy will take.

In July 1997, the first editorial Board consisting of outside experts was formed and the constitution of the Board was published in July issue onwards. The Journal has an Editorial Board with the Director of DESIDOC (Ex-officio Chairman), Editor, *DJLIT* is the member secretary of the Board. The Editorial

Board comprises some eminent scientists, researchers and eminent personalities from the area of library and information science. The main functions of the Editorial Board is to look into the overall review of the journal, progress and suggestions on future special issues, identifying experts for contributing papers for *DJLIT*, policy matters of the journal, and to improve the overall quality of the journal. It was decided that the Board will meet on regular intervals.

The first Editorial Board had Dr SS Murthy, Director, DESIDOC (Chairman), and Dr JS Arora, Advisor, BTIS, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi; Shri A Arunachalam, visiting Professor, IIT, Chennai; Dr A Lahiri, Advisor, DSIR, Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi; Dr TB Rajashekar, Associate Chairman, NCSI, IISc, Bangalore; Shri Harijit Singh, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi; Dr N Vijyaditya, Deputy Director General, NIC, New Delhi and Dr T Viswanathan, Director, INSDOC, New Delhi as members and Shri Ashok Kumar, Editor as Member Secretary. To bring in fresh ideas, the Editorial Board was reconstituted occasionally. Changes in the Editorial Board were observed in January 2001, January 2002, July 2005, January 2007, May 2007, January 2009, September 2010, March 2011 and January 2012. The current Editorial Board was reconstituted in May 2013.

The Editorial Board meets from time to time to lay down broad editorial policies for the Journal and to direct its progress through suitable advice. The first meeting of the EB was held on 21st May 1998. The last meeting of the Editorial Board was held on 13th August 2013.

Reviewing process

The manuscripts submitted to *DJLIT* are reviewed for possible publication. The Journal follows a double-blind system of reviewing. The Editor reviews all submitted manuscripts initially. Manuscripts with insufficient originality, serious scientific flaws, absence of importance of message, weak analysis, or problems in presentation are rejected. The primary aim of the peer review process is to maintain quality control and protect the reputation of the journal in a transparent manner. Every effort is made to ensure that manuscripts are reviewed efficiently and to a high quality. The exact length of time depends on many factors, such as whether peers agree to review a

manuscript, and how quickly they submit their reports, how fast the response is received from authors, etc. Within a period of ten to twelve weeks, the contributors are informed regarding acceptance/rejection/revision of manuscripts. Presently, the rejection rate of *DJLIT* is more than 65%. It is also one of very few journals that defrays the incidental charges met by the referees and pays a token honorarium to the referees and guest editors of the Journal. These unique measures made the referees and guest editors more involved in their tasks leading to the improvement of the overall quality of the contents of the Journal.

Special Issues of *DJLIT*

The *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* is a journal of library and information technology but with time a large number of sub-areas have emerged. So, it is likely that a reader may not get even a single paper of interest on a particular topic. Hence, to attract good quality papers and to increase the visibility of the Journal, the Editorial Board and editorial team of the Journal decided in 1994 to bring out issues related to a particular area of interest of library and information science with eminent experts in the field as guest editors.

The September 1992 issue of the Journal was the first special issue dedicated to the memory of Dr S R Ranganathan, father of library movement in India, brought out, on the occasion of his birth centenary i.e. 12 August 1992. Five articles were published which were invited from his students, disciples and those who were in close contact with him.

The next special issue was published in January 1995 on marketing of information and document delivery under the Guest Editorship of MN Seetharam, NAL, Bangalore. The Guest Editor invites articles, reviews, evaluates and edits them and sends to *DESIDOC* for further editing and processing. At that time less number of articles on the selected topics were published from highly experienced senior information professionals. The current issue of May 2014 is a special issue on 'Indian Contribution in Scientometrics' under the Guest Editorship of Dr B M Gupta, Scientist (Retd.), NISTADS, CSIR. Till now, 55 special issues have been published and many more are scheduled. A list of already published Special issues of *DJLIT* is shown in Appendix 1. All the special issues of *DJLIT* have been highly appreciated

by the user community and maximum readability has been observed for these issues on analysis of data.

Coverage in indexing and abstracting databases

DESIDOC has taken initiatives to include the bibliographical details as well as full-text in many international databases. These efforts provide greater visibility and reach to *DJLIT*. It also provides wider international publicity to the Journal as well as in receiving quality papers from India and abroad. These databases provide the contents of the Journal free of cost or at some cost for availability to the readers.

The Journal is presently covered by over a dozen major indexing and abstracting agencies including in *SCOPUS*, *LISA*, *LISTA*, *EBSCO Abstracts/Full Text*, *The Informed Librarian Online*, *DOAJ*, *Open J-Gate*, *Indian Science Abstracts*, *Indian Citation Index*, *Full text Sources Online*, *WorldCat*, *Index Copernicus*, and *OCLC*.

Bibliographic and citation studies

A citation can be defined as an extract from or reference to a book, paper, or author, especially in a scholarly work. On the other hand the impact factor (IF) of an academic journal is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to recent articles published in the journal. It is basically used to find the status of a journal in a particular field. Journals with higher impact factors are considered more important compared to journals with lower impact factors. The impact factor was devised by Eugene Garfield.

Many studies have been carried out on *DJLIT* (earlier *DBIT*) to understand the growth pattern in terms of coverage, readership, authorship, subject analysis, citation analysis, scope, etc. Dr Mohinder Singh, Editor in Chief, in his editorial¹ on 'Celebrating 25 Years of Publishing of *DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology*', in *DBIT* issue published in September 2005 has mentioned that 'Twenty-five years of continuous institutional support of the Journal indicates the significant role the Journal plays in the *DESIDOC*'s long-standing commitment to library and information professionals and students. The Journal continues to be a prime resource in the interdisciplinary field of information technology is quickly expanding its scope beyond geographical boundaries to reviewers, contributors, and subscribers around the world.'

The topics of studies enjoined by *DBIT* are based on feedback which has come through the editors and users about the current state of IT usefulness for library and information professionals throughout the world. Since its launch over 25 years ago, the journal has been dedicated to the enrichment of knowledge and the advancement of library services. It prepares its readers to understand and embrace current and emerging technologies affecting library and information functions and the information needs of the users. From the automation of library services to the evaluation of sources and models for delivering more effective library services, it provides indispensable information for all types of libraries which experience change⁷.

Tigga², *et al.* in their paper have done content analysis of 33 issues of *DBIT* published during January 1997 to July 2002. It concluded that *DBIT* gives more emphasis on IT-related areas. *DBIT* is a peer-reviewed journal and publishes thematic issues on different areas of IT, library management and information marketing. *DBIT* is a useful tool for library professionals, information managers, information scientists, and information specialists, computer personnels and researchers with a vision for development in IT. Out of 33 issues, 16 are general issues and 13 are thematic issues. Five special issues were published in 1997. Seventy one percent contributions were from single authors. Highest number of articles (59) were covered in 2000. It emphasised that the experts in the field of library and information science have edited all the special issues, as a result the journal has grown to be a peer-reviewed journal.

Bansal³ *et al.* analysed the content of *DBIT* during 2000-2005 to understand the growth of the journal. They found that 71 papers were published during that period. Topics were covered through different contributions, research and review papers. It can be seen that the papers included are selected both from the academic world of debate and theory, and the practitioner world of action, decision and practicality. It was deduced that topics from new and emerging fields were covered. During that period four special issues were brought out. Out of which one guest editor was based abroad (USA) and 42% contributions were from single author. It was concluded that keeping abreast of the ever-changing factors that affect a library can be difficult and time consuming. Through its papers, the *DBIT* presents

new ideas and theories, which have been tested through practical application and deliver real insight in any topic. Each article sets the context for a particular topic; highlights current thinking; adds to the body of knowledge; introduces new ideas, usually with recommendations as to how the ideas may be successfully applied to stimulate further thinking; generates insight by linking new ideas with experience, knowledge and objectives, to promote insight into area of interest. It keeps pace with the plethora of current and developing techniques and applications about the logistics of information management so that readers can gain access to a wealth of relevant and practical information. In addition, regular guest editors identified innovations and emerging trends through special theme issues of the journal.

Thavamani⁴ identified the growth and authorship pattern of articles of *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology* published during 2007-2011. It was observed from the study that the year 2008 was most participating year during the study period. Out of 194 contributions, the highest number, i.e., 107 (55.15%) was contributed by academic institutions and lowest number, i.e., 15 (7.73%) by special institution. The Relative Growth Rate (RGR) was high in terms of literature productivity and doubling time was correspondingly less than RGR. It was observed that the degree of collaboration was high i.e., 108 (0.556) in terms of collective contribution and single authors' contribution was less (i.e., 86) out of 194 (0.556). and many more features were identified.

A study assessed of the pattern of growth of the research output published in the *DJLIT*, pattern of authorship and geographic distribution of output and subjects covered⁵. Citation analysis of the references attached to the papers and changes in them over two different periods (2001-2006) and (2007-2012) was also done. It is found that 391 papers were published during the period of study (2001-2012). The maximum number of articles (65) was published in 2012. The maximum number of contributions is the outcome of joint collaborations i.e. 61.4 %. Most of the contributions (88 %) are from India and 12 % are foreign contributions. The study revealed that majority of the authors preferred journals as the source of information providing the highest number of citations. BM Gupta has published maximum number

of articles (26) in the Journal during the period. The maximum number of articles (65 %) has the length of 6-10 pages, and the maximum number of special issues (5) was published in 2012.

Citation study by Kherde⁶ showed the Journal ranked 6th among the LIS journals published in India and Patra and Chand⁷ ranked it 10th. Both studies have analysed the LIS research in the country based on *Library and Information Science Abstracts* (LISA) database.

Mahesh & Wadhwa⁸ studied the *Web of Science* database and ranked the *DJLIT* at number 6 (receiving 71 citations from its 51 papers) among the top 10 ranked Indian LIS Journals based on cited reference search. However, it ranked 3rd in the list based on citation per paper. The Journal stood 1st when the ranking was limited for the period 2001-10 with 1.5 citations per paper (receiving 60 citations from its 40 papers). The Journal received 9 citations for a paper by Gupta & Bhattacharya in 2004 (the data was taken for 2001-2010).

From January 2012 the Journal is being covered in Scopus opening awareness for more citation studies. SCI Global Impact Factor of the Journal for the years 2012 and 2013 were 0.452 and 0.645 respectively. As per OJS statistics, the no. of downloads of full-text articles from *DJLIT* site is more than 1 lakh in 2013. The Journal had been well received by the LIS community as its subscription number kept increasing.

Printing process of the Journal

The Journal has been using in-house printing unit of DESIDOC for printing the journal. Earlier, the letter press process was used till 1984. In 1984, the printing process was changed to offset and phototypesetting facility was used to produce the layout.

In 1990s, with computers, the printouts/final camera ready copy was supplied to the printing unit for offset printing which is a commonly used printing technique. The first issue that was produced using DTP software Ventura on laser printer was May 1992.

Later, NovaSharp Crystal 125 a polyester-based, daylight-working, zero-process, dry-to-dry film for making offset positives/negatives using a desktop computer and a laser printer were introduced. The image density booster solution enhances the UV

density of the image which is comparable with silver-sensitised graphic arts films and therefore suited for exposing presensitised offset plates. These films are used to get the negatives of the whole issue and supplied to printing division. It led to make the job of printing simpler. Currently, Pdf files (digital copy) of the final issue are provided to digital printing. Now the computer to plate (CTP) imaging technology is used to print *DJLIT*. The printing is done in four colours. Then binding and distribution of the Journal take place.

Policies of the Journal

Every journal has a set of policies. A set of policies comprising principles, rules, and guidelines formulated or adopted by an organisation to reach its long-term goals and typically get it published in a booklet or other form that is widely accessible. Policies and procedures are designed to influence and determine all major decisions and actions, and all activities take place within the boundaries set by them. Policies were drafted from time to time to maintain the quality and authenticity of the Journal.

Availability and subscription

The pricing/subscription policy for the Journal was formulated and started in January 1994 (For individuals Rs 50/- and for Institutions Rs 100/- per annum). With the pricing of the Journal, the mailing of free copies was stopped. However, complimentary copies were provided to DRDO users, national libraries, besides mandatory requirement of deposit centers.

The full-text of all the volumes is available at *DJLIT* site on internet at <http://publications.drdo.gov.in/ojs/index.php/> free of cost. However, the print copies are available at nominal cost of Rs 150 for individual and Rs 450 for institutions.

Presently, five complimentary copies are being provided to the guest editor of special issue and one copy to each author per issue and editorial board members.

Exchange agreements

The exchange policy of the Journal helps the Journal to improve the quality and content. Moreover, it helps in more publicity of the Journal. The Journal is right now being exchanged with eight journals, namely,

Paradigm, Synergy, University News, Journal of Educational Planning and Administration, Annals of Library and Information Studies, Mangalmay Journal of Management and Technology, Information Studies, and Indian Journal of Information and Library and Society.

Advertising and promotional aspects

To reach a wider audience it is necessary that the Journal is to be marketed. Several steps have been taken so that the Journal reaches the remotest part of the country and abroad. Any new development about *DJLIT* is now available through LIS Links, one of the prominent professional networking sites on library and information science. The brochure of *DJLIT* is published every year and is being provided to the subscribers and many forums. It is also being distributed in major events like trade fairs, conferences, book exhibitions, etc. The cover page of the Journal was also changed in January 2008 issue to make it more visible to the readers.

Future perspectives

The main aim of *DJLIT* is to publish high quality articles for the benefit of LIS community and students. To meet the standards of the Journal contributions are invited from reputed institutes of India and abroad. Letters have been sent to eminent professionals in the field of library and information science to contribute papers for *DJLIT*. The main hurdle the Journal is facing now is the problem of plagiarism which *DESIDOC* is trying continuously to tackle. The reviewers are extremely busy in their pursuits, but to serve the society there is need for the reviewers to provide thoughtful, fair, constructive, and informative critique of the submitted work in a timely manner on the scholarly merits and scientific value of the work. It is felt that education is required for the authors regarding writing the papers, copyright policies and open access policies. Also it is highly important for the scholarly publishers to publish and

disseminate the knowledge in the most timely and efficient manner.

The Journal has made sincere efforts towards the enrichment of knowledge in the field of LIS. It enhances readers' understanding and prepares them for embracing current and emerging technologies affecting library and information functions. The credit to bring this publication of international level, entirely goes to the guest editors, editorial team, editorial board, eminent reviewers, authors, and valuable readers, who are continuously supporting us in this endeavor. They all deserve our deep heart-felt thanks for their 33 years of sustained efforts for improvement of the contents of the journal.

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Table 1—Published Special Issues of *DJLIT/DBIT*

Title	Issue Details
Trends in Online Exhibitions	March 2014, 34(2)
Indian Contribution in Scientometrics	May 2014, 34 (3)
Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Libraries	January 2013, 33(1)
Health Information Systems and Services	March 2013, 33(2)
Applications of Online Exhibitions	May 2013, 33(3)
Knowledge Organisation	July 2013, 33(4)
Agricultural Information Systems and Services in India	January 2012, 32(1)
E-books	March 2012, 32 (2)
Intellectual Property Rights	May 2012, 32 (3)
Digital Preservation	July 2012, 32 (4)
Open Source Software for Libraries	September 2012, 32 (5)
Ontology	March 2011, 31(2)
Semantic Web	July 2011, 31(4)
Scientometrics	September 2011, 31(5)
100 years of LIS Education in India	September 2010, 30(5)
E-learning	January 2009, 29(1)
Social Science Gateways	March 2009, 29(2)
Library Consortia	September 2009, 29(5)
Open Access	January 2008, 28(1)
Information Literacy	March 2008, 28(2)
Online Exhibitions	July 2008, 28(4)
Knowledge Sharing	September 2008, 28(5)
Measurement of Indian S&T	January 2007, 27(1)
Library and Information Science Education in India	March 2007, 27(2)
Intellectual Property Right Part I	July 2007, 27(4)
Intellectual Property Right Part II	November 2007, 27(6)
Future Publishing Technologies	January 2003, 23(1)
Marketing of Information Products and Services	May 2002, 22(3)

Table 1—Published Special Issues of *DJLIT/DBIT*—*Contd*

Title	Issue Details
Web Page Design and Development	March 2001, 21(2)
Information Technology	January & March 2000, 20(1,2)
Community Information Services	January 1999, 19(1)
Environmental Information Systems in India	March 1999, 19(2)
Role of Classification and Cataloguing in the Information Age	May 1999, 19(3)
Research in Library & Information Science	January 1998, 18(1)
Information Systems in Agriculture in India	March 1998, 18(2)
Information Marketing	May 1998, 18(3)
Access to Social Science Information	July 1998, 18(4)
Multimedia Applications in Libraries	November 1998, 18(6)
Collection Development in the Context of Networking and Electronic Publishing I	January 1997, 17(1)
Collection Development in the Context of Networking and Electronic Publishing II	March 1997, 17(2)
Indian Bibliographic Databases I	July 1997, 17(4)
Indian Bibliographic Databases II	September 1997, 17(5)
Digital Libraries	November 1997, 17(6)
Electronic Publishing	January 1996, 16(1)
Library Networks in India	March 1996, 16(2)
Internet for the Librarian	May 1996, 16(3)
Expert Systems in Library and Information Science	July 1996, 16(4)
Copyright Problems in Library Services	November 1996, 16(6)
Marketing of Information and Document Delivery	January 1995, 15(1)
Library Automation	March 1995, 15(2)
Library Automation: Software	May 1995, 15(3)
Privatisation of Library and Information Science	September 1995, 15(5)
Education for Information	November 1995, 15(6)
Dr S.R. Ranganathan Birth Centenary Issue	September 1992, 12(5)