Quality improvement and quantity enhancement of Indian LIS journals

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Journals are the main vehicles for disseminating research publications and one can gauge the standard of research in the country through its publications. India has a growing population of researchers and academics who want to publish and search for easy outlets guaranteeing quick publication. Indian journals as a whole and LIS journals in particular fail miserably when it comes to maintaining quality. There should be a first received first reviewed and first published policy to be adopted by Indian LIS journals. Indian journal editors need to be more communicative with authors and they should adopt the best practices followed by the international journal editors. Indian LIS researchers have few journals and conference proceedings to publish their papers on the one hand and there is a need to publish more papers for professional progress. This has become important especially in the aftermath of the Academic Performance Indicators (APIs) introduced by the UGC after the VI Central Pay Revision where 55% of API scores can be claimed through publications. Through consortia based access, LIS researchers are exposed to what is being studied in the advanced countries. Thus more number of papers by LIS researchers from India are appearing in international journals. There are also many papers getting wasted in conference proceedings and festschrift volumes and editor interest driven book chapters. Such publications never have a wider reach and suffer from poor bibliographic control. Authors and researchers need to conserve their research output by opting for its wider dissemination and better visibility by opting to publish in quality journals and they can strengthen Indian journals only by publishing their best papers in these journals.

Keywords: LIS journals; India; Journal quality

Introduction

Ernest Hemingway mentioned about his intention to write as "My aim is to put down on paper what I see and what I feel in the best and simplest way." Such an attitude may work behind the mind of those who involve in professional writing also. Everyone wants to write and get recognition, everyone wants to share what s/he learned in the profession with other professionals, and everyone wants to play their little role in the advancement of profession. As a discipline which is initiated at the post graduate stage, library and information science (LIS) has many takers like other such disciplines of journalism, management, computer applications etc. The onset and emergence of LIS as a predominant discipline through distance education further enhanced the number of graduates and practitioners in the country. Many of them pursue research and research which is judged based on the quality and quantity of publications one produces. Journals are the main vehicles for disseminating research publications and one can gauge the standard of research in the country through its publications. In one way good research leads to better papers which ultimately finds place in the best journals. With inferior quality research, none can produce outstanding publications. The whole issue thus focuses on the strength and quality of LIS research in the country, the quality and standard of research papers produced by the country, a majority of which finds inclusion in LIS journals published from the country.

Indian LIS journals

A search in the Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory (https://ulrichsweb.serialssolutions.com/) for the keywords 'library', 'information' and country 'India' retrieved 105 journals. Out of which only 67 journals are marked as 'Active'. The status of 19 journals is marked as 'Researched/Unresolved', 18 journals as 'Ceased', and 1 journal as 'Suspended'. In a blog dated March 3, 2014, a list of 85 library science journals published in India are listed, out of which 8 are multidisciplinary journals, 74 are English language journals and remaining multilingual journals (English and regional language) (http://libraryrulesgov.-blogspot.in/2014/03/lis-journals-published-in-india.html). Patra and Chand identified 6 core journals in the field of LIS and 13 journals (in which 2 are international)

as important for Indian LIS research[1]. Mahesh and Wadhwa explored the possibility of using the 'cited reference search' feature of the Web of Science (WoS) database to rank the Indian LIS journals[2]. When many local authors hesitate to cite Indian sources and instead prefer to adopt international sources, it is difficult to realize the full impact of citation studies, though initiatives such as Google Scholar and Indian Citation Index attempts to map citations of Indian papers. An illustrative list of major LIS journals published in the country is presented in Table 1 and number of papers published in those journals covered in Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) is listed in Table 2.

Ground realities of Indian LIS journals

While discussing in his study of 200 Asian LISJs (Library and Information Science Journals) in general, and 70 South Asian ones in particular (of which 57 are from India), Sharma points out their problems[3]:

- Frequency varied from quarterly, semi-annually, yearly, and irregularly and many journals do not appear on time. Sometimes a few issues, or even a few volumes, are combined.

- The paper used for printing a majority of journals is of very poor quality. It becomes yellow within a few years and maybe, it is not acid-free.

- Many articles are of very poor quality as writers do not make sense, write poor sentences and many times there is no link between paragraphs. It seems that the editors are desperate to get articles and publish them bereft of peer reviewing or proper editing or good proofreading without looking at their quality. Perhaps these laxities coupled with absence of any marketing attribute for their small circulation.

- Many editors have started journals without proper planning, finances, and marketing that resulted in the premature death of many journals. A majority of the editors are part-time, without any proper help, which makes it very difficult to run a quality and profitable business.

- A few publishers never replace lost and damaged copies of their journals free. Often even authors do not receive free copies of journals and/or offprints of their articles.

Some of these problems still plague many of the journals published from the country. Timeliness of publication is important and today more or less many of the journals publish on time. Some of the journals still practice combining of issues without much addition in the number of pages. Such practices may affect the trust of subscribers which may lead to fall in subscriptions in subsequent years. The quality of paper used for printing in the case of some journals has seen a marked increase in quality. With the arrival of graduates from science and professional courses in the domain of library science, the quality of writing is constantly increasing though much remains to be done about professional writing. Proof reading is a major area where still LIS journals from the country can do a lot as spelling and grammatical errors are sometimes noticed in the best of journals. Some journals leave proof reading to authors but a check on the author's input should be made at the editorial level before the matter goes for printing. Person driven journals have seen a silent death with the person. Only those journals floated by associations are somehow continuing. Marketing is the least attended area which is responsible for the poor visibility of many of these journals. Unlike international journals with a major thrust on marketing and subscription promotion, Indian journals as a whole and LIS journals in particular fail miserably on this vital aspect. Tapping on personal subscriptions, making available individual issues for personal and institutional purchase, aggressive promotion in third world markets (individual journals alone cannot do this and hence an agency like NISCAIR, DESIDOC or INFLIBNET or private subscription agents can undertake promotion for journals published in the country) are some of the areas to boost sales and improve the reach of these journals. Replacing damaged or lost copies of subscribers is a business practice Indian journals should emulate from international players. To account for such exigencies, few extra copies of issues need to be printed. Relying only on good plastic coated packaging and despatching through registered or speed post or reputed couriers may eliminate cases of damaged or lost copies. Every author should be provided with at least one copy of the issue in which his/her paper is published.

Editors

Davis argues that 'hyperinformation' or the overabundance of information is a problem of quality signaling between senders (authors) and receivers (or

Table 1—Major library & information science journals published from India (illustrative list)

Journal	Publisher	Year of starting; Current status; Frequency	Contents	Coverage in LISA
Annals of Library and Information Studies	NISCAIR, New Delhi	1954; Continuing; Quarterly	Articles, book review	Y
DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology	DESIDOC, Delhi	1981; Continuing; Bimonthly	Editorial, articles, website review, technology briefs, article alerts, book review, conference information	Y
Granthana: Indian Journal of Library Studies	Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata	1990; Continuing; Biannual	Editorial, articles, book review	Earlier Y. Not covered now."
Herald of Library Science	P N Kaula Endowment for Library Science, Lucknow	1962; no issues after Vol. 45, No. 1,2 of 2006 so far; Quarterly	Articles, conference reports, personalia, notes and news (national and international)	Y
IASLIC Bulletin	Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Kolkata	1956; Continuing; Quarterly	Articles, book reviews, report of IASLIC Conference/Seminar	Earlier Y. Not covered now
Journal of Indian Library Association	Indian Library Association (ILA), Delhi	1965; Continuing; Quarterly	Editorial, articles, book reviews	N
Information Studies	Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies, C/o SRELS, Bangalore	1995; Continuing; Quarterly	Articles	Y
International Information Communication and Education (INICAE)	P N Kaula Endowment for Library Science, Lucknow	1982; no issues after Vol. 24, No. 2 of 2005 so far; Biannual	Abstracts of articles, articles, viewpoints, reviews	Y
Library Herald	Delhi Library Association	1963; Continuing; Quarterly	Articles, book reviews, news and events, personalia, research report	N
SRELS Journal of Information Management	Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science (SRELS), Bangalore	1964; Continuing; Quarterly till Vol. 46 of 2009; Bimonthly from Vol. 47 of 2010	Editorial, articles, book review	Y

readers), and contends that the role of editors in mediating these signals becomes enhanced — not diminished — in an expanding world of information[4]. There are three types of editors of journals we encounter in the Indian LIS journal world. One is editor floated journals in which a single person continues as editor for longer time. More than 28%

LISA covered articles from Indian LIS journals were edited by Late Prof. P N Kaula. Satija summarized his editorial acumen in few words to map such amazing talent[5]: "Many a green horn has become authors, thanks to his grooming and guidance. He would spend hours on an article sent by a budding professional, even a novice author, to correct and polish it to make

Table 2—Papers from Indian library science journals covered in LISA

Sl. no.	Journal	Records in LISA	
		No	% of 3807 (Total results for India in LISA)
1.	*Annals of Library and Information Studies* (also used earlier names *Annals of Library science* and *Annals of Library Science and Documentation*)	612	16.07
2.	*DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* (also used the earlier name *DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology*)	284	7.46
3.	*Granthana: Indian Journal of Library Studies*	52	1.36
4.	*Herald of Library Science*	867	22.77
5.	*IASLIC Bulletin*	390	10.24
6.	*Information Studies*	207	5.44
7.	*International Information Communication and Education (INICAE)*	205	5.38
8.	*SRELS Journal of Information Management* (also used earlier names '*Library science with a slant to documentation and Information Studies*' and '*Library science with a slant to documentation*')	686	18.02
	Total	3303	86.76

it publishable". There is no harm in such an arrangement when the person concerned has talent and interest to shoulder the multifaceted responsibilities of conducting the journal with quality. As very rightly said about Prof. Kaula, "He encouraged new writers, edited their papers himself but never compromised on its quality and standards. The Herald lived a long life of more than 45 years in a country where their mortality rate is very high. It was a peerless model in format and contents"[5]. Then there are journals floated by institutions or associations where there is a frequent change in editorship as in the case of *SRELS Journal* or *ILA Bulletin*. There are also cases where one person is continuing as Editor for longer duration as in the case of *IASLIC Bulletin*. Some of the journal editors got the position due to their official position, some due to their preference of the elected executive of the association, but all of them tried in their own ways to continue and scale further heights of the journals concerned, despite many odds.

Booming authorship in the times of APIs

Lotka's Law describes the frequency of publication by authors in any given field[6]. This implies the number of authors publishing a certain number of articles is a fixed ratio to the number of authors publishing a single article. There are few authors who write multiple papers as when the number of articles published increases, authors producing that many

publications become less frequent. In other words, there are 1/4 as many authors publishing two articles within a specified time period as there are single-publication authors, 1/9 as many publishing three articles, 1/16 as many publishing four articles, etc[6]. Indian LIS researchers have few journals and conference proceedings to publish their papers on the one hand and there is a need to publish more papers for professional progress, especially in the aftermath of the Academic Performance Indicators (APIs) introduced by the UGC after the VIth Central Pay Revision[7].

Table 3 shows Category III (Research and Publications and Academic Contributions) cap to calculate the total API score claim for Direct Recruitment / Career Advancement. Research publications in journals can claim 30% of the total points and 25% for research publications in books. Thus the importance of research publications and the emergence of these as a major factor for career progress is obvious. Table 4 highlights the API points that can be claimed for research publications: 15 points for those in refereed journals, 10 points for those in non-refereed but ISSN journals, 10 points for papers included in proceedings of conferences, 50/25/15 points for books from international/national/local publishers or 10/5/3 points for a chapter in such books. Wherever relevant to any specific discipline, there is a provision to augment the API score for paper in refereed journal as follows:

Table 3—API cap for different academic activities

Sl. no.	Sub-category	Cap as % of API cumulative score in application
III (A)	Research papers (Journals, etc.)	30%
III (B)	Research publications (Books, etc.)	25%
III (C)	Research Projects	20%
III (D)	Research Guidance	10%
III (E)	Training Courses and Conference/Seminar, etc.	15%

Table 4—API points for research output

Sl. no.	Type of publication	API Points
III (A)	Research Papers published in: Refereed Journals	15 / publication
III (A)	Research Papers published in: Non-refereed but recognized and reputable journals and periodicals, having ISBN/ISSN numbers.	10 / Publication
III (A)	Conference proceedings as full papers, etc.	10 / Publication
III (B)	Text or Reference Books Published by International Publishers with an established peer review system	50 /sole author; 10 /chapter in an edited book
III (B)	Subjects Books by National level publishers/State and Central Govt. Publications with ISBN/ISSN numbers.	25 /sole author, and 5/ chapter in edited books
III (B)	Subject Books by Other local publishers with ISBN/ISSN numbers.	15 / sole author, and 3 / chapter in edited books
III (B)	Chapters contributed to edited knowledge based volumes published by International Publishers	10 /Chapter
III (B)	Chapters in knowledge based volumes by Indian/National level publishers with ISBN/ISSN numbers and with numbers of national and international directories	5 / Chapter

(i) indexed journals – by 5 points; (ii) papers with impact factor between 1 and 2 by 10 points; (iii) papers with impact factor between 2 and 5 by 15 points; (iv) papers with impact factor between 5 and 10 by 25 points.

Due to APIs, there are more papers, many conference proceedings, and new publications in journal and book form all following the stipulated condition of ISBN/ISSN as the case may be. Maintaining quality against overloading quantity is a major challenge faced by library science researchers like those in many other fields.

Reviewing

Reviewing is a thankless job. The role of editor is crucial for the peer review to work effectively as s/he can only provide a coherent feedback to the author in the event of contradictory reports from reviewers[8]. Due to the voluntary nature of the job, many reviewers are not reviewing at the same pace and the editor is unable to assign deadlines for the work. There is a need to avoid slow reviewers. Every LIS journal should indicate timeline in articles showing the date of receipt of the article, revision and acceptance. There should be a first received first reviewed and first published policy to be adopted by Indian LIS journals. This will guarantee equal opportunities to authors spread over a wider geographic area separated by language and socio-cultural barriers. It has been observed that rejection is comparatively faster in international journals. Editors of international journal examine the paper in a reasonable time and then decides to send for review or else reject. Editors of international journals are more communicative. They indulge in regular follow up to seek review report resulting in time bound decision on manuscripts and their publication. Those papers reviewed have chances of publication in the initial form or in a revised version. Many of the Indian journals decide about acceptance or rejection after review which takes time. To avoid delays in decision regarding manuscripts, editor or a committee of editors may first resort to a quick examination of the suitability of the paper for review so that those papers not falling within the scope of the journal can be

easily returned. Reviewers doing justice to the manuscript in lesser time should be encouraged irrespective of their professional position and hierarchy. Those experts in senior positions naturally get lesser time for review work and hence they may be reserved for review work only in exceptional cases when the paper to be reviewed happens to be in their specialization and on non-availability of a relatively less busy expert. UGC may also think about assigning some API points for reviewing papers to attract and sustain interest in this activity as a professional return for the time spent. Indian journal editors need to be more communicative with authors and they should adopt the best practices followed by the international journal editors in handling the various operations right from receipt of a paper to its review, editorial decision and till its publication.

To give an idea of time involved in review of Indian LIS journals, the time incurred in publication for some papers sent by the author to few journals is provided in Table 5.

Bharat Ratna Prof. C N R Rao (author of 1400 research papers and 42 books) opined that "It often becomes depressing to deal with journals and referees. Some journals have become so holy that they refuse to consider papers for publication just based on physical inspection. Some referees are insulting and ignore the fact that the investigators have some abilities and experience. Referee-fatigue and journal practices discourage the young, in some cases, sufficient to render them inactive and cynical… I feel that it is best to publish in good professional journals without worrying about the artificial hierarchy of journals."[9] He also openly stated that "However good the work may be, a young inexperienced referee from an advanced country tends to assume that the work coming out of a developing country cannot be that good. Scientists from India still seem to face this problem, let alone scientists from countries in Africa. After more than five decades of publishing, I occasionally get referee reports where I am taught

Table 5—Author's experience of publishing with Indian LIS journals for the last 15 years

Journal	Cases
J1	1. One paper sent for publication published after 13 months 2. One paper sent for publication published after 12 months 3. One paper sent for publication published after 10 months 4. One paper sent for publication published after 9 months 5. One paper sent for publication rejected after 10 months
J2	1. One paper sent for publication published after 14 months 2. One paper sent for publication published after 15 months 3. One paper sent for publication published after 47 months 4. One paper sent for publication published after 48 months 5. One paper sent for publication published after 40 months
J3	1. One paper sent for publication published after 5 months 2. One paper sent for publication published after 21 months 3. One paper sent for publication published after 19 months 4. One paper sent for publication published after 4 months 5. One paper sent for publication published after 1 month
J4	1. One paper sent for publication rejected after 9 months 2. One paper sent for publication published after 2 months 3. One paper sent for publication misplaced by the reviewer and the editor sought a fresh copy of the paper for sending to another reviewer if still interested to publish when requested for status after an year 4. One paper sent for publication published after 17 months 5. One paper sent for publication published after 12 months 6. One paper sent for publication published after 21 months
J5	1. One paper sent for publication published after 3 months 2. One paper sent for publication published after 2 months

elementary science, with questions raised about simple procedures. The only thing that I am not asked is whether I brushed my teeth in the morning"[9]

Changes in publication trends: pLIS vs eLIS

pLIS (print dominated Library & Information Science/System/Service) as the name implies predominantly have print collection in libraries. The print medium restricts users to either use the collection in the library or issue out interested documents for use at home or place of work with provisions to take copies of few pages for personal use. Also print based libraries of huge collection were setup in the country much later than their counterparts in advanced countries. Hence studies in the pLIS-era largely concentrated on local issues and there were not many international journal papers.

eLIS (electronic information dominated Library & Information Science/System/Service) as the name implies have hybrid libraries with significant quantum of electronic content in their collection for access. Such libraries of e-collection were setup in India through consortia based access to such collections. Studies in eLIS era on e- information issues other than third world infrastructure problems are universal. More reprints of foreign LIS books are now available in local editions. Through consortia based access, LIS researchers are reading many international journals and are exposed to what is being studied in the advanced countries. Thus more number of papers by LIS researchers from India on e-resource issues is appearing in international journals. It appears that Indian LIS is getting internationalized. All these point to a question. Are Indian authors reserving their good papers for international journals further leaving Indian journals with poor quality papers?

E-only journals

Anil Singh in his posting to LIS-Forum quoted statistics that in December 2009, there were 7425 journals registered in India in all areas as per ISSN register whereas this number reached 16161 in 2013 regarding mushrooming of journals in the country to feed the API race with other issues such as handling charges, no agency to grade the standard of journals, problems in grading them as per the title starting with the term 'international'[10]. Supply always tries to meet the demand of the market. The ground reality is that without much infrastructure and editorial acumen, it is relatively easy to float a journal, and that too an e-only open access journal some pocketing page charges from authors. There are also other models such as subscription to fund the cost and profit required. Our country has a huge market of academics who want to publish and search for easy outlets guaranteeing quick publication. Some of these journals may demand payment for publication. Teachers and researchers in some institutions may get funding from their institutions for such activities which librarians may not get. Such predatory publishers and doubtful journals may send spam mails where you receive call for papers from journals and conferences which are not even in your subject area. Maintaining quality of content is a very serious issue in the case of these journals.

Quality of research

The popular areas for research have been, in order of popularity: university libraries, bibliometrics, library use and user studies, information seeking behaviour, information systems, classification and indexing, special libraries, library history, reference service and sources, and library science education[11]. Bibliometrics/scientometrics is the most frequent topic for researchers in India as a result of easy availability of bibliographic databases, followed by other topics such as library technology, libraries and librarianship following historical, conceptual or survey based methods[12]. Document selection and procurement, cataloguing, and experimental designs in library management are the least popular topics– though these seem practical and relevant to present day needs[11]. LIS literature from India is rather low as reflected by the LISA database[1]. Research methods such as experimental or case or action, system/software analysis or design are little used[12]. We are still lagging behind as far as library and information science research is concerned due to traditional methods of teaching, and lack of research orientation; lack of research experience by the faculty and librarians; absence of knowledge about research methodology; inadequate strength of the faculty, which is overburdened with doing classroom teaching; non-availability of many qualified research supervisors; earlier intake of inefficient, indifferent, and disinterested persons by the library profession; inadequate financial support; lack of good library facilities and services; absence of essential data; entry of majority students to research in library and

information science from an academic background which does not prepare them for this specialised activity; lack of incentives for doctorates; and absence of identification of research areas[13]. Out of these, many of the problems other than incentives for doctorates are still to be addressed. The policy of PhD-NET equivalence not only encourages mediocre of the mediocres to join academic but also plays havoc with the institution of research since most of such candidates are manipulators and a lifelong liability on the profession and the institutions[11].

This author spent two years as a researcher in science and also worked in institutions which aggressively pursued research in science and technology. What is noticed in those disciplines is that the research guide has some specialization and area of interest and the scholars attached to that guide pursue only research in those areas. There are also interdisciplinary research works where one research scholar is assigned to two teachers in different specializations in the same department or from different departments. Being a subject handled after graduate education aimed at library and information support and services, such an aggressive research specialization is not visible among library science researchers barring few practitioners of bibliometrics research. In many cases, the research topic is selected as per the wishes of the student and the research conducted ends with the student getting his Ph. D. degree. Neither the student nor the guide attempts to do any further studies on that topic. This sort of myopic interventions in research leads to the poor quality of research which ultimately produces inferior quality publications. There are also many papers getting wasted in conference proceedings and festschrift volumes and editor interest driven book chapters. Such publications never have a wider reach and suffer from poor bibliographic control. Many a times the list of themes

announced by the conference organizer forces an author to write a paper and there it ends. Authors generally do not try to do further studies to develop the paper for later publication in a good journal for their wider visibility. This may also be one of the reasons for the lesser number of journals and papers in the discipline though it has a large number of practitioners and very large number of LIS graduates/students.

Quantity of Indian LIS journals

It appears that we lack not only in quality but also on the quantity of research publications. During the period 1999-2013 as per the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) data, India ranked 13th with 140 publications (1.11%) behind USA with 5921 papers (46.79%), England with 1501 papers (11.87%), Canada with 700 papers (5.54%), Australia with 619 papers (4.89%) and 8 other countries[14]. There may be many of the papers getting almost vanished in conference proceedings, Festschrift volumes which have poor bibliographic control apart from lack of proper distribution channels to reach out the intending researchers. Table 6 presents the page length and number of articles in few of the international journals with some prominent journals from India. It is not forgotten that these international journals receive papers from throughout the world whereas Indian journals predominantly get papers from India followed by those from few African, Asian and Latin American countries or developing areas of other continents. Authors and researchers need to conserve their research output by opting for its wider dissemination and better visibility by opting to publish in quality journals and they can strengthen Indian journals only by publishing their best papers in those journals. They may also resolve to document and publish whatever professional/research work they

Table 6—Pages and articles from selected international and Indian journals

Sl. no.	Journal, Print ISSN	Volume, Year	Issues	Pages	Articles
1	*Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST)*, 1532-2882	64, 2013	12	2600	184
2	*Journal of Documentation*, 0022-0418	69, 2013	6	898	43
3	*The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 0099-1333	39, 2013	6	614	82
4	*Annals of Library & Information Studies*, 0972-5423	60, 2013	4	322	37
5	*DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology (DJLIT)*, 0974-0643	33, 2013	6	522	61
6	*SRELS Journal of Information Management*, 0972-2467	50, 2013	6	704	70

do not only for their own career advancement but for the betterment of the profession.

Author training and language issues

We are moving through a phase where getting quality manuscripts is of equal importance to the publishers and editors as they are to authors. E-resources and consortia have integrated the world unlike any other earlier techno-products or collaborations. International publishers are aggressively conducting author workshops in various institutions in different parts of the country to target Indian authors to produce quality papers which will no doubt emerge as a win-win situation for both. India is emerging as one of the premier markets for international information products in the third world and authors from India have tasted the virtues of publishing in international journals. Library professionals and students should reap benefits of these training programmes and experiment with international publications. There is a component of dissertation as part of the MLIS programme to train students in research. They may be trained in publication also and every student should be encouraged to get a publication out of the dissertation work. MLIS students should also be exposed to oral and written communication skills and scholarly writing as part of the curriculum to improve these skills and make them better professionals in future.

It has been noticed that for many LIS professionals and graduates, English language skills is the main issue. Full journals in Indian languages may be unviable. But bilingual content can be supported by existing English journals. If a researcher is unable to write in English, s/he may be motivated to do so in mother tongue. Professional research work should gain importance over language skills and this may further improve the professional research output and visibility of LIS research in the country.

Notable changes

The recent trends witnessed in LIS journal publishing in the country are very positive and dynamic which promises a better future. Some of the print based journals are complying with open access as in the case of *Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS)* through CSIR Online Periodical Repository (nopr.niscair.res.in/) and *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology (DJLIT)* through

DRDO publication portal (publications.drdo.gov.in/-ojs/index.php/djlitý). Both these journals use the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform which permits authors to upload papers for publication and conduct review and revision in an interactive mode with authors, reviewers and editors. INFLIBNET Centre is promoting its OJS portal, Open Journal Access System (OJAS) (http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/ojs/) to archive journals from Universities. *Trends in Information Management (TRIM)*, a biannual journal of the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir is available currently through this platform. Some print journals provide e-access through collaborations such as *Library Herald* is available through IndianJournals (http://www.indianjournals.com/) and *SRELS Journal of Information Management (SJIM)* through the journal portal promoted by Informatics India (http://www.i-scholar.in/index.php/sjim).

There is an increase in frequency of SJIM from 4 issues a year to 6 issues a year from Vol. 47 of 2010. There is a visible increase in the number of pages and number of articles published in the case of ALIS and DJLIT. Similarly there is notable change in the paper and print quality in the case of ALIS, DJLIT and *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology (IJIDT)*. The print version of IJIDT and electronic version of SJIM are currently available in colour. Many other Indian LIS journals are currently undergoing changes to reflect the aspirations of authors.

Conclusion

The Great Gatsby author, F. Scott Fitzgerald said "You don't write because you want to say something; you write because you've got something to say." Every professional involved in research, publishing, reviewing and editing share this thought when they involve in academic activities. The most accepted criteria given by the journal editors for evaluating journal quality are originality and innovativeness, theoretical implications, building on and relevance to the body of knowledge, clarity of writing, research design and structure of paper[15]. Indian LIS journals may get as qualitative and quantitative as International LIS journals only when all the stakeholders (authors, editors, reviewers and publishers) give a serious thought to it supported by well conceived action plans. Professional authors are

not born like fiction writers but are trained. Every LIS student should thus be equipped with oral, written and scholarly communication skills to approach problems and issues in the profession and conduct research of a high standard. Authors should take advantage of the best literature available through consortia to enrich their papers and make them appealing to international audience vowing at the same time to publish such papers only in Indian LIS journals. Make it a point to publish further research and study enriched versions of the papers sent to conferences and books at a later stage in journals to give them the desired visibility. Every important initiative contributed as part of professional work should get documented and end in some publication. Editors should learn a lot from the International editors and they should be more interactive and communicative with authors and reviewers. There should be time bound decision about articles and publication. Reviewers may be compensated through API points so that they take the activity seriously and conduct reviews effectively in less time. Adoption of best practices by editors, reviewers and authors may go a long way in improving the quality and enhancing the quantity of Indian LIS journals.

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