

An Analysis of Open-Access E-Journals in Library and Information Science

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Abstract

The growth of open-access e-journals in the field of Library and Information Science represents a transformative shift today. Open-access journals provide unrestricted access to peer-reviewed research, enabling Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals, researchers, and students worldwide to access required knowledge without subscription barriers. This study evaluates open-access (OA) e-journals in the field of LIS, assessing their accessibility, quality, and impact. Objectives: The main objectives of the study are to identify and categorize prominent OA e-journals in LIS; evaluate their quality based on indexing, impact factors, and peer-review standards; analyze their accessibility in terms of licensing models and assess their impact on academic research. Methods: The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative analysis. A sample of top-ranked LIS OA e-journals was selected to evaluate. Results: The analysis indicates that OA e-journals in LIS generally meet high standards for accessibility, with the majority adopting Creative Commons licensing. Many journals are indexed in reputable databases, enhancing visibility and academic impact. Findings also show that OA e-journals contribute significantly. Conclusion: OA e-journals in LIS play a crucial role in expanding access to research and facilitating knowledge sharing among scholars and practitioners. Despite challenges in maintaining rigorous peer-review and achieving high-impact factors, the overall trend shows promising growth in quality and accessibility. This paper has significant practical utility as it helps librarians optimize collection development, reduce costs, and promote high-quality resources; for researchers and students, it ensures free access to scholarly content, enhances publication opportunities, and supports skill development. Policymakers can use such studies to advocate open science and evaluate the impact of OA initiatives. LIS educators benefit by integrating findings into curricula and using them as case studies. Additionally, publishers can refine their models for sustainability and innovation. Overall, the study fosters global knowledge sharing, affordability, and equitable access to resources.

Keywords: E-resources, e-journals, open-access e-resources, open-access e-journals, LIS e-journals, free to access e-journals, open educational e-resources, publicly available LIS e-journal

INTRODUCTION

The landscape of scholarly publishing in Library and Information Science (LIS) has undergone substantial changes with the rise of open-access (OA) e-journals. Unlike traditional subscription-based journals, OA e-journals allow free and unrestricted access to research articles, fostering greater knowledge sharing and inclusivity in academic communities. This development has been particularly beneficial in LIS, where access to updated research and resources is critical for professionals working in libraries, information centres, and academic institutions. The shift toward OA has not only improved the accessibility of scholarly content but has also contributed to higher citation rates and global visibility for LIS research.

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This introduction delves into the significance of OA in LIS and discusses its evolution, advantages, and ongoing efforts to address the challenges associated with OA publishing.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The expansion of OA journals in Library and Information Science (LIS) emphasizes that OA publishing has transformed scholarly communication, fostering global accessibility. Gold and Green OA models dominate LIS publishing, while Diamond OA (no author-facing charges) is increasingly being recognized for its potential to enhance inclusivity in underfunded regions.

Researchers, like in their study titled “Benefits of Open-Access E-Journals in LIS,” emphasize that OA e-journals play a pivotal role in making scholarly communication more accessible. For LIS professionals, OA journals reduce financial and access barriers, providing a wider reach to research articles, especially in developing regions where access to subscription-based journals is limited. OA journals also allow LIS scholars to disseminate their work broadly, increasing citation rates and impact. These benefits align with the LIS community's values of democratizing access to information and promoting equitable knowledge sharing.

In his study titled “Challenges and Quality Concerns in OA Publishing,” he conducted a landmark study that exposed the vulnerability of some OA journals to predatory practices, where low-quality or non-peer-reviewed content was published. This raises questions regarding quality control in OA publishing. In LIS, scholars have recommended mechanisms for assessing the credibility of OA journals, including rigorous peer-review and accreditation from trusted databases, such as DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) and Scopus.

As noted by Machin-Mastromatteo and Secker (2015), during the study “Role of Open Access E-Journals in LIS Education and Practice,” discussing OA resources enhances the learning experience, promoting evidence-based practice and ongoing professional development. For LIS educators, OA e-journals serve as a resource for integrating current research into curricula, bridging the gaps between academia and practice [1].

The study “Current Trends and Future Directions” reveals a trend toward hybrid models that combine open and restricted access, allowing journals to diversify their revenue streams. Additionally, there is growing emphasis on collaborative publishing models and international cooperation to strengthen the credibility and impact of OA journals in LIS. Future research may focus on the long-term sustainability of OA models and how LIS-specific journals can foster stronger policies regarding accessibility and ethical publishing.

In his study, the impact of open-access on the field of Library and Information Science emphasizes the accessibility and visibility benefits of OA journals for LIS professionals. They argued that OA e-journals reduce financial barriers, making research widely available. This is particularly impactful in developing countries, where libraries often struggle with budgetary constraints. The study also found that OA publishing can increase citation rates for LIS researchers, improving academic and practical visibility.

OA journals have significantly improved research visibility and impact. Articles published in OA journals typically receive more citations than those published in subscription-based journals. A survey revealed that 72% of researchers consider OA journals vital for disseminating their work to a broader audience, particularly in fields such as LIS, where cross-disciplinary reach is important [2–4].

High article processing charges (APCs) remain a barrier to researchers from low-income regions. Additionally, inequities in access to publication funds highlight the need for alternative funding mechanisms such as institutional support for Diamond OA models.

Transformative agreements, which shift subscription models to OA, have enabled greater access to scholarly works on LIS. New digital tools, including AI-driven indexing systems, are improving the discovery of OA journals. Furthermore, OA educational materials such as textbooks and lecture notes have become pivotal for LIS programs globally [5–10].

OBJECTIVES

- To identify and categorize prominent OA e-journals in LIS.
- To evaluate the extent to which OA e-journals in LIS are globally accessible to researchers, students, and professionals.
- To analyze the academic quality, peer-review process, and credibility of OA e-journals in the LIS domain.
- To identify current trends, emerging topics, and thematic areas covered by OA-LIS e-journals.
- To assess the impact on academic research of these OA e-resources.
- To explore the role of OA e-journals in promoting the free exchange of ideas and knowledge within the LIS community.
- To develop strategies for increasing awareness and adoption of OA e-journals among LIS professionals and researchers.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a descriptive and exploratory research design to analyze OA e-journals in LIS. Their focus is on identifying their accessibility, content quality, scope, and impact on LIS research and practice. The population/sampling of this study is OA e-journals indexed in prominent databases, such as the Directory of Open Access Journals, Google Scholar, and journals' websites, with a primary focus on LIS journals. Journal Websites (for information on editorial policies, publication frequency, scope, and indexing), Databases and Directories (such as DOAJ and Google Scholar), and publishers' disclosures are used for data collection [11–13]. Selected criteria have been analyzed in tabular form, such as authority, searching, archiving, coverage, links, etc. (Smith, Alastair G). For Content Analysis and Thematic Analysis. The evaluation criteria were accessibility, content quality, impact, and relevance (Table 1).

Data Interpretation

The data collected from various sources, including journal websites, databases, and directories, were systematically organized and interpreted to derive meaningful insights. Each OA e-journal in LIS was assessed based on predefined evaluation criteria—accessibility, content quality, impact, and relevance. Quantitative data, such as indexing status, publication frequency, and citation counts, were summarized using descriptive statistics to highlight distribution patterns and coverage scope.

Table Analysis: The source of the above Table 1 is OA e-journals indexed in prominent databases such as the Directory of Open Access Journals, Google Scholar, Journals' websites, and Publishers' disclosures. Selected criteria have been taken, such as authority, searching, archiving, coverage, and links, to be analyzed in tabular form. OA journals in LIS provide unrestricted access to cutting-edge research, promoting collaboration across geographies. OA-LIS journals are published globally, with prominent contributors. A journal's Impact Factor reflects its influence. Journal of Information Science ranks highly, indicating significant contributions to theoretical and practical research. Some OA journals lack rigorous peer-review processes, which could impact credibility. Popular topics include data curation, knowledge management, and digital preservation, aligning with the rise of Big Data and AI applications in libraries. Journals vary in publication frequency, with high-quality journals often being quarterly or monthly. This reflects the workload and editorial standards required for publishing consistently. LIS researchers benefit from the visibility and citation advantage of publishing in OA journals. Authors from developing countries face challenges such as publication fees (APCs), despite waivers offered by some publishers. The rise of predatory publishers poses a challenge for scholars in identifying credible OA platforms.

Table 1. Analysis of open-access e-journals in Library and Information Science.

Title/URL	Authority/ Publisher/ Editor/ Country	Scope/ Coverage/ Purpose	Searching/ Accessibility/ Browsability	Format	Treatment/ Accuracy/ Objectivity	Arrangement	Archiving/ Periodicity	Special Features/ Index
Journal of the Medical Library Association < https://jmla.mlanet.org/ojs/jmla >	PubMed and, since 2002, the Medical Library Association, United States	It covers health sciences, librarianship, education, and information technology.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It contributes to the education of health sciences librarians, highlights the role of the medical librarian, helps broaden the profession's skill set, and continues to foster a research mentality among JMLA readers.	Arranged volume-wise on the home page	v.90(4), Oct 2002–v.112(4), 2024	Indexed in PubMed, MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. Features open-access PDFs, citation metrics, supplemental materials, continuing education resources, editorial commentaries, and historical archives.
Chinese Librarianship: An International Electronic Journal < http://www.whiteclouds.com/iclc/cli/ej/cl46.htm >	Published in various electronic channels, United States	It focuses on both the practical and theoretical aspects of Chinese librarianship.	Simply click on Issue, Title, Author, and Web Index	E-Text	It publishes research findings, theoretical explorations, and case studies by librarians, information scientists, library school faculty, and students of Chinese heritage, as well as by other librarians and information professionals.	Arranged issue number-wise	No.1, 1996–No.46, 2018	EBSCO, LISTA, LISI, LISA, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, and Cabell's Directory
Communications in Information Literacy < https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/comminfolit/ >	University of Oklahoma, United States	Dedicated to advancing knowledge, theory, and research in information literacy.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It is dedicated to advancing knowledge, theory, and research in information literacy.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1-2), 2007–v.18(1) 2024	Directory of Open-Access Journals, EBSCO, Scopus, Google Scholar, H. W. Wilson, ProQuest
Coordinates: Online Journal of the Map and Geography Round Table, American Library Association < https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/collections/3ea2e044-b5ca-4556-b34c-20b709348c2c >	The Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT) Library Association	Focuses on essays, project reports, technical notes, republished articles, and other materials of interest to the cartographic community.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	HTML and PDF	It includes map and GIS librarianship, the history of cartography, map cataloging and bibliography, map reading and interpretation, new developments in online mapping, and other subjects of interest to a broad spectrum of cartographic readers.	Arranged issue-wise	2005–2010	Directory of Open-Access Journals

Title/URL	Authority/ Publisher/ Editor/ Country	Scope/ Coverage/ Purpose	Searching/ Accessibility/ Browsability	Format	Treatment/ Accuracy/ Objectivity	Arrangement	Archiving/ Periodicity	Special Features/ Index
EBIB Electronic Information Bulletin for librarians < https://www.ebib.pl/?page_id=63 >	Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich Komisja Wydawnictw, Poland	Focuses on librarianship, information, and library technologies.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	E-Text and RTF	It includes essays, reports, announcements, letters, discussions or polemics, and agendas.	Departments: Research, theory, views, interviews	1999– 2022.	Special 2000 is available for browsing Full text 2002
Electronic Journal of Health Informatics < http://www.ejhi.net/ojs/index.php/ejhi >	Central Queensland University, Australia	It promotes the advancement of health informatics and information technology in healthcare.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It provides health care workers with a readily accessible electronic platform for sharing information about research, knowledge, experiences, perceptions, and wisdom with colleagues involved in all facets of health informatics and health information technology.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 2006–v.9(1) 2015	Google Scholar Scopus (for selected years: 2009–2015) CAB Abstracts EBSCOhost Australian PANDORA Archive (National Library of Australia) PSIREF Database DOAJ (previously listed, not currently active)
Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management < http://www.ejkm.com/ >	Academic Conferences International Limited, United Kingdom	It includes topics relevant to the study, implementation, and management of knowledge management.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It contributes to the development of both theory and practice in the field of knowledge management and publishes academically robust papers, topical articles, and case studies that advance research and practice in this area.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), Sept. 2003– v.22(1) 2024	Indexed in Scopus, EBSCO, ProQuest, Google Scholar, and DOAJ; offers open-access PDFs, blind peer review, citation metrics, and publishes case studies, conference papers, and special issues on knowledge management.
European Journal of ePractice < http://www.epracticejournal.eu/ >	ePractice.EU, Spain	e-Government, e-Health, e-Inclusion, and e-Participation.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It promotes the diffusion and exchange of good practices in eGovernment, eHealth, and eInclusion. The types of materials include articles, case studies, and interviews.	Arranged issue-wise	2007–2020	Indexed in Google Scholar, EBSCO, and DOAJ archives; provides peer-reviewed open access and issue-based indexing; features case studies, policy reports, and best-practice guides in eGovernment, eHealth, and eInclusion

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Evidence Based Library and Information Practice < https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/ebip/index.php/EBLIP/index >	University of Alberta. Editor-in-Chief: Lindsay Glynn, Canada	Aims to bridge research and practice by sharing case studies, methodologies, and best practices in the digital transformation of public administration EBLIP focuses on evidence-based librarianship and evidence-based practice.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It provides a forum for librarians and other information professionals to discover research that may inform decision-making in professional practice and publishes original research and commentary on evidence-based library and information practice.	Arranged year, volume, and number-wise	v.1(1-4), 2006–v.19(3) 2024	Indexed in Scopus, Web of Science (ESCI), DOAJ, EBSCO, LISA, and ProQuest; includes author, title, and issue index; features peer-reviewed research, evidence summaries, and commentaries supporting evidence-based librarianship
E-JASL: The Electronic Journal of Academic and Special Librarianship < http://southernlibrarianship.icaap.org/ >	ICAAP, Canada	It covers all aspects of academic and special librarianship, regardless of region or country.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	HTML	It is an independent, professional, refereed electronic journal dedicated primarily to advancing knowledge and research in the areas of academic and special librarianship.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1) Jun. 1999–v.9(3) 2008	Indexed in DOAJ and LISA; provides HTML full-text access, refereed articles, and open-access archives; includes regional and global studies in academic and special librarianship
High Energy Physics Libraries Webzine < http://webzine.web.cern.ch/ >	HEPLW Editorial Team, supported by the CERN Library, European Organization for Nuclear Research	It covers purchasing, cataloging, preservation, interlibrary loan (ILL), quality	Simply click on the Issue and Title	HTML	Devoted to high-energy physics libraries, it aims to assist professionals in their daily activities by sharing experiences in	Arranged issue-wise	Issue 1, Mar. 2000–Issue 13, Oct. 2006	Hosted and archived by CERN Document Server; indexed in INSPIRE-HEP, Google Scholar, and LISA; features technical reports, conference insights, and global contributions from physics libraries

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Human IT: Journal for Information Technology Studies as a Human Science < https://humanit.hb.se/index >	(CERN), Switzerland	control, and user surveys.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It is closely aligned with the emerging field of research, alternatively referred to as humanities computing, social informatics, or <i>informatica umanistica</i> .	Arranging volume-wise	v.1(1), 1997–v.14(3), 2014	Decided in 2003 to henceforth use volumes not limited to a calendar year
Informatica Economica Journal < https://revistate.a.se.ro/ >	Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, Romania	It covers economic informatics, the information society, information systems, and information technology (IT).	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It focuses on economic informatics, the information society, information systems, and information technology.	Arranging volume-wise	v.2(1-4), 1998–v.28(1) 2023	Indexed in DOAJ, Google Scholar, and RePEc. Features open-access PDFs, bilingual abstracts (Romanian & English), and academic articles from the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest. Publishes studies on economic informatics and information systems
Information Research: An International Electronic Journal < http://informaion.net/ir/ >	Prof. Lund University Libraries, Sweden, United Kingdom	It focuses on library and information science.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	E-Text	It is an open-access, international, peer-reviewed scholarly journal dedicated to making research results accessible across a wide range of information-related disciplines.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1-3), 1995–1996 to v.28(1), 2023	Indexed in Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, LISA, INSPEC, and EBSCO. Offers open-access full-text articles, thematic issues, citation tracking, and international research coverage in information science
Information Technology and Disabilities < http://itd.athenpr.o.org/ >	E A S I: Equal Access to Software and Information, United States	It covers information technology, disabilities, and education.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	E-Text	It covers information technology, disabilities, and education.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 1994 – v.14(1), 2014	Indexed in Google Scholar and ERIC. Provides peer-reviewed content, web accessibility tools, podcasts, webinars, and online training modules for inclusive IT education

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Informing Science: The International Journal of an Emerging Transdiscipline < https://www.informingscience.org/Journals/InformingSci/Overview >	Library and Information Technology Association (LITA)	It focuses on all aspects of information technology and libraries related materials.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF and HTML	It includes digital libraries, metadata, authorization and authentication, electronic journals and publishing, telecommunications, distributed systems and networks, computer security, intellectual property rights, and related topics.	Arranged by year and volume	v.1, 1998– v.27, 2024	Referred and published quarterly
Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management < http://www.ijikm.org/ >	Informing Science Institute, United States	It covers information technology and information management.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It includes information, knowledge and management, organizational learning, and related topics.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1, 2006– v.19, 2024	Indexed in Scopus, EBSCO, DOAJ, ProQuest, and Google Scholar. Provides blind peer review by three or more referees, open-access PDFs, and cross-disciplinary research on information, knowledge, and management systems
Interdisciplinary Journal of E- Learning and Learning Objects < https://www.learn-techlib.org/IJELLO/ >	Informing Science Institute, United States	It covers e- learning, learning objects, and knowledge.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It provides readers around the world with comprehensive coverage of developments in e- learning and learning objects and publishes high-quality articles on theory, practice, innovation, and research covering all aspects of e-learning and learning objects.	Articles are arranged volume- wise	v.1, 2005– v.16, 2020	Indexed in Scopus, EBSCO, ProQuest, Google Scholar, and DOAJ. Offers peer-reviewed open access, archived volumes on LearnTechLib, and international coverage of e-learning innovations and learning object developments
International Journal of Digital Curation < http://www.ijdc.net/ > < http://www.ijdc.net/ > http://www.ijdc.net/ http://www.ijdc.net/	The Digital Curation Centre, United Kingdom	It covers digital curation, digital preservation, and digital access.	Simply click on the Volume and Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It is devoted to papers, articles, and news items on the curation of digital objects and related issues.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1, 2006– v.18(1), 2024	Indexed in Web of Science (ESCI), Scopus, EBSCO, DOAJ, and Google Scholar. Features author and issue index, peer-reviewed research, data curation case studies, and open- access preservation resources

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International Journal of Doctoral Studies (IJDS) < https://www.informingscience.org/Journals/IJDS/Articles >	Informing Science Institute, United States	It focuses on information about science, information systems, information technology, information science, information security, and IT education.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It facilitates knowledge enhancement related to doctoral studies in areas such as, but not limited to, informing science, information systems, information technology, information science, decision science, information security, and IT education.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1, 2006– v.19, 2024	Cabell's Directory, EBSCO, DOAJ
International Review of Information Ethics < http://www.i-r-i-e.net/ >	International Center for Information Ethics, Germany	It covers cyber ethics, computer ethics, and library and information science.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It focuses on the ethical impacts of information technology on human practices and thinking, social interaction, other areas of science and research, and society as a whole.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1, 2004– v.26, 2017	Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) ROAD (Registry of Open Access Scholarly Resources) Information Ethics Metadata Services Google Scholar UALberta Library Index
Issues in Informing Science and Information Technology < http://iisit.org/ >	Informing Science Institute, United States	It encourages the sharing of knowledge and collaboration among the wide variety of fields that use information technology to inform clients.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It includes communicating meaning, community and society, computer science, data communications, distance education, e-commerce, education, government, health care, medicine, history, and information science & library studies.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1, 2004– v.21, 2024	Indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, EBSCO, Cabell's Directory; Peer-reviewed; Open access; Published by the Informing Science Institute

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Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship < https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/issue/index.php/ist/issue/archive/5 >	Association of College and Research Libraries, United States	It covers science, library science, information science, information technology, and technology.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	E-Text	It serves as a platform for science and technology librarians to share details of successful programs, materials for delivering information services, background information, and opinions on topics of current interest, as well as to publish research and bibliographies on issues in science and technology libraries.	Arranged volume-wise, information for the author has been given	Dec. 1991 – Issue 108 (2024)	Indexed in Scopus, EBSCO, Library Literature & Information Science (LLIS), LISTA; Peer-reviewed; Open access; Quarterly publication
JEP: The Journal of Electronic Publishing < https://journals.publishing.umich.edu/jep/ >	Scholarly Publishing Office (SPO), University of Michigan University Library, United States. Editor: Judith Axler Turner.	It provides a forum for research and discussion about contemporary publishing practices and their impact on users.	Simply click on the Volume and the Internal Search Engine	E-Text	It provides an archive of works covering current trends and issues in electronic publishing. The articles present innovative ideas, best practices, and cutting-edge thinking on all aspects of publishing, authorship, and readership.	Arranged by issue	v.1(1-2), 1995–v.27(1) 2024	Indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, EBSCO, ProQuest; Peer-reviewed; Hosted by University of Michigan; Open access
Journal of Digital Information < https://jodi-otl.tdl.org/jodi/issue/archive >	Texas Digital Library, United States	It covers information management, information science, and information technology.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	HTML	It covers topics such as information management, information science, information technology, digital libraries, hypermedia systems, hypertext criticism, and information discovery.	Arranged by issue, author, title, and theme	v.1(1), 1997–v.13(1), 2012	Indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, EBSCOhost, LISA; Peer-reviewed; Focused on digital libraries and information systems
Journal of Educational Media & Library Sciences	Tamkang University Press, Taiwan	It covers library science, information	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It covers all aspects of library science,	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 1970–v.61(2), 2024	Indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, LISTA, LISA, Ulrich's, CEPS, H.W. Wilson;

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< http://joemls.dils.thu.edu.tw/en/issue/s/ >		technology, publishing, and the book trade.			science, and information technology.			Peer-reviewed; Long-standing LIS journal from Taiwan
Journal of Health Informatics in Developing Countries < http://www.jhidc.org/index.php/jhidc >	University of Otago, New Zealand.	It covers information science, medicine, and health care.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It shares and promotes academic knowledge in the field of health librarianship and encourages writers from developing countries to contribute their work.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 2007–v.18(1), 2024	Google Inc./Google Scholar indexing
Journal of Information Literacy (JIL) < http://www.informationliteracy.org.uk/JIL.aspx >	Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, United Kingdom	It investigates information literacy.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It investigates and makes generalized observations on how information literacy impacts organizations, systems, and individuals.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 2007–v.6(1), 2012	The author, issue, and title index has been given
Journal of Information, Technology, and Organizations < https://www.informingscience.org/Journals/JITO/Articles >	Informing Science Institute, California, United States	It focuses on information systems research.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	JITO covers a specialized area of information systems research, as indicated in its title. It focuses on empirical studies, while conceptual articles are published only occasionally.	Articles are arranged volume-wise	v.1, 2006–v.6, 2011	Indexed in Scopus, EBSCO, DOAJ, Cabell's Directory; Blind peer review by three or more peers; Informing Science Institute
Journal of Medical Internet Research < https://www.jmir.org/issues >	Gunther Eysenbach, Canada	The journal focuses on the intersection of medicine, health informatics, and internet-based technologies	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine with search tips	HTML	It covers health informatics and all aspects of research, information, and communication in the healthcare field using Internet- and intranet-related technologies, now commonly referred to as "eHealth."	Articles are arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 1999–v.26, 2024	Indexed in PubMed, MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science, DOAJ; Impact Factor (Clarivate); Peer-reviewed; Leading eHealth journal

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Journal of the Association for History and Computing < http://quod.lib.umich.edu/j/jahc/browsse.html >	Sponsored by the American Association for History and Computing	It promotes and develops interest in the use of computers in all types of historical study at every level, in both teaching and research.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	E-Text	It defines useful standards to maximize the utility of computers in historical studies and is intended for a general audience of teachers, students, and researchers interested in the application of computers in this field.	Arranged by issue and year	v.1(1), 1998–v.13(1), May 2010	Indexed in DOAJ, Google Scholar; Peer-reviewed; Hosted by University of Michigan Library
Library & Information Research: Research into Practice for Library Services < https://lirjournal.org.uk/index.php/lir/issue/archive >	CILIP Library & Information Research Group, United Kingdom	It focuses on library and information science.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It focuses on research for the LIS community, reporting of research, reflective and evidence-based practice, and related areas.	Arranged volume-wise	v.31(99), 2007–v.43(127), 2020	Indexed in DOAJ, Scopus, LISTA, LISA; Peer-reviewed; Published by CILIP Library and Information Research Group
Library Philosophy and Practice < https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/ >	University of Nebraska, Lincoln libraries, United States	It focuses on library practice, as well as the philosophy and theory of librarianship.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It includes explorations of current, past, and emerging theories of librarianship and library practice, as well as reports of successful, innovative, or experimental library procedures, methods, or projects across all areas of librarianship, set within the context of applied research.	Arranged volume-wise	1968 & 2006–2024	Indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, LISTA, EBSCO, LISA; Peer-reviewed; Hosted by University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Open access
Library Resources & Technical Services (LRTS) < https://journals.ala.org/index.php/lrts >	Association for Library Collections & Technical Services	It covers collections, preservation, acquisition, serials,	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	LRTS supports the theoretical, intellectual, practical, and scholarly aspects of the profession—including	Arranged volume-wise on the home page	v.1, 1957–v.40, 1996	Journal Citation Reports® 2009; Impact Factor 2008: 0.698.

Title/URL	Authority/ Publisher/ Editor/ Country	Scope/ Coverage/ Purpose	Searching/ Accessibility/ Browsability	Format	Treatment/ Accuracy/ Objectivity	Arrangement	Archiving/ Periodicity	Special Features/ Index
Library Student Journal < https://www.librarystudentjournal.org/index.php/lsj/issue/archives >	University at Buffalo, United States	cataloging, and classification.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF and HTML	collection management and development, acquisitions, cataloging and classification, preservation and reformatting, and serials—by publishing articles and book reviews.	Arranged volume-wise	2006–2012	Indexed in DOAJ, Google Scholar, EBSCO; Peer-reviewed student journal; Hosted by University at Buffalo
LIBRES: Library and Information Science Research < https://www.libres-journal.info/ >	Curtin University of Technology, Australia	It focuses on library science and information science.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It is devoted to new research in library and information science.	Arranged volume-wise	v.6(1), July 1996–v.233(1), 2023	Indexed in Scopus, EBSCO, LISA, DOAJ; Peer-reviewed; Open access; Hosted by Curtin University, Australia
North Carolina Libraries < http://www.nclecu.edu/index.php/NCL >	North Carolina Library Association, United States	It focuses on libraries, librarianship, media centers, and academic libraries.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It focuses on libraries, librarianship, media centers, and academic libraries.	Arranged volume-wise	v.60(1-4), 2002–v.82(2), 2024	Indexed in DOAJ, LISTA, Google Scholar; Open access; Published by North Carolina Library Association
Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research < https://journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/issue/archive >	The Partnership, Canada	It focuses on librarians, information professionals, library workers, and library and information studies.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF and HTML	Feature articles on theory and research, as well as on innovations in practice, are in-depth, peer-reviewed articles. Other types of articles include viewpoints, conference presentations, profiles, news and	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 2006–v.19(1), 2024	Indexed in DOAJ, Scopus, EBSCO, LISA; Peer-reviewed; Published bi-annually by The Partnership, Canada

Title/URL	Authority/ Publisher/ Editor/ Country	Scope/ Coverage/ Purpose	Searching/ Accessibility/ Browsability	Format	Treatment/ Accuracy/ Objectivity	Arrangement	Archiving/ Periodicity	Special Features/ Index
South African Journal of Information Management < http://www.sajim.co.za/index.php/sajim/issue/current >	University of Johannesburg, South Africa	It covers information management theory, information management technologies, education, and business.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	HTML	announcements, professional development pieces, and reviews. It presents original research, novel synthesis, or a judicious review of current theory, method, policy, or practice in the fields listed below. Article submission, review, and publication are conducted entirely electronically.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 1999-v.26(1), 2024	Indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, EBSCO, AJOL, Web of Science (ESCI); Peer-reviewed; Published quarterly
The Bonefolder: An outgrowth of the Book Arts Web < http://www.philobiblon.com/bonefolder/ >	The Book Arts Web - Peter D., Syracuse University Library, Syracuse, NY, United States	It covers decorative techniques, education, exhibition reviews, tips and tricks, and book reviews.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF	It features established and emerging authorities on a variety of book arts topics, including hand bookbinding, teaching, business practice, the history of the book, the book as art, general tips and tricks, exhibitions, how-to technical articles, and reviews.	Arranged volume-wise on the home page	v.1(1), Fall 2004-v.8, 2012	DOAJ, NYU Library, and LOCKSS
The Code4Lib Journal < http://journal.code4lib.org/ >	Code4Lib. North County Regional Library, United States. Editor: Carol Bean.	It fosters community and facilitates the sharing of information among those interested in the intersection of libraries, technology, and the future.	Simply click on the Issue, Title and the Internal Search Engines	E-Text	It helps libraries with computer technology, using computers and the Internet to provide unprecedented access to information and library resources. C4LJ aims to foster collective understanding and provide the necessary support for improving library technology and digital services.	Arranged issue-wise	Issue 1, 2007–Issue 59, 2024	Indexed in DOAJ, EBSCO, Google Scholar; Peer-reviewed; Open access; Focus on library technology and digital infrastructure

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The Journal of the Rutgers University Library < http://jrul.library.rutgers.edu/index.php/jrul/index >	Rutgers University, United States	It covers the history of libraries, the history of books, and New Jersey history.	Simply click on the Title and the Internal Search Engine	PDF	It publishes articles based on the holdings of the Rutgers University Libraries and in the areas of New Jersey history, Rutgersensia, bibliography, and the history of libraries, books, and printing.	Arranged volume-wise	v.1(1), 1937–v.68 (2), 2016	Indexed in Google Scholar, DOAJ; Peer-reviewed; Published by Rutgers University Libraries
Urban Library Journal < http://lacuny.cuny.edu/ulj/ >	City University of New York, United States	It focuses on urban academic libraries and librarianship.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF and HTML	It covers academic, research, public, school, and special libraries in urban settings; public higher education; urban studies; multiculturalism; library and educational services to immigrants; preservation; and related topics.	Articles are arranged volume-wise	v.14(1), 2007–v.30(1), 2024	Indexed in DOAJ, EBSCO, Google Scholar; Refereed; Published by City University of New York
Virginia Libraries < https://virginalibrariesjournal.org/ >	Virginia Library Association, United States	It promotes and improves library and information services, as well as the profession of librarianship.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	PDF and HTML	It facilitates the exchange of information, ideas, and solutions to common problems through professional articles on current topics in the library and information field.	Arranged volume-wise	v.42(1), 1996–v.68(1), 2024	Indexed in DOAJ, EBSCO, Google Scholar; Peer-reviewed; Published by the Virginia Library Association
Webology < https://webology.org/ >	University of Tehran, Iran	It covers periodicals in web science, information science, and library science.	Simply click on the Issue and Title	E-text	It covers information retrieval; web crawling, cataloging, and searching; search engines and directories; search behavior; metadata; and related topics.	Arranged volume-wise once	v.1(1-2), 2004–v.18(6), 2021	Indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, EBSCO, LISIA, Ulrich's, Web Citation Index, WorldCat; Peer-reviewed; Published by University of Tehran

Academic libraries should subscribe to indexes and databases, ensuring access to credible OA-LIS journals for their patrons. Libraries can support researchers by curating resources on OA publishing practices and providing training on evaluating journal credibility [13, 14].

The analysis of OA e-journals in LIS differs from previous studies in its focus, purpose, and approach. Previous studies have synthesized the existing research, summarizing past studies. This study focuses on current trends, challenges, and practical implications of the open-access e-journal of Library and Information Science by identifying prominent OA e-journals in LIS; evaluating the extent to which open access e-journals in LIS are accessible to researchers, students, and professionals globally; analyzing the academic quality, peer-review process, and credibility of open-access e-journals in the LIS domain; identifying current trends, emerging topics, and thematic areas covered by OA-LIS e-journals; assessing the impact of these open-access e-resources on academic research; exploring the role of OA e-journals in promoting the free exchange of ideas and knowledge within the LIS community; and developing strategies for increasing awareness and adoption of OA e-journals among LIS professionals and researchers. Moreover, previous studies provide a historical overview, whereas this analysis offers a deeper, critical engagement with the ongoing issues, proposing potential solutions and policy recommendations. This analysis extends this by addressing contemporary challenges and suggesting ways forward in the field [15–19].

FINDINGS

- This study revealed significant insights into OA e-resources. OA e-journals in LIS generally scored high in terms of accessibility as they offered unrestricted access to content. This has led to increased visibility and readership, especially in regions with limited access to subscription-based journals.
- Many journals in the sample also demonstrated high accessibility through their indexing in major academic databases, such as DOAJ, Scopus, and Google Scholar. Some OA e-journals in LIS have achieved considerable impact, as evidenced by moderate to high citation counts.
- A major similarity found was that almost all e-journals are concentrating on digital library initiatives, technological, information service developments, and information networking issues contain a wide coverage of local library issues, ranging from ongoing research, day-to-day news from the workplace.
- Out of several searched e-journals, it is found that all are available in full text form, free of cost, and can be received regularly. The most notable finding in the study is that it provides effective communication between users and online free e-journals.
- Leading OA e-journals typically have transparent and rigorous peer-review processes, often publishing review guidelines, turnaround times, and acceptance rates. However, several lower-ranked OA journals have less transparency regarding their review process, raising concerns about quality control.
- Sustainability remains a critical concern because OA journals often rely on author fees or institutional support to cover costs. This dependency can sometimes limit journal frequency or the ability to maintain high editorial standards.
- OA e-journals widely played a role in knowledge democratization. Researchers and LIS professionals, particularly those from underfunded institutions or developing countries, emphasized the benefits of OA, noting that it enables them to access essential research without financial barriers.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings, the following suggestions are proposed to improve the quality, impact, and sustainability of OA e-journals in LIS.

- OA e-journals should prioritize transparent and rigorous peer-review processes. Journals can adopt double-blind peer-review and publish review guidelines, including details on review

criteria and acceptance rates, to build trust between authors and readers. This will help to elevate the perceived quality and credibility of OA journals.

- Developing standardized quality benchmarks for OA journals in LIS would help to differentiate credible journals from less reputable ones. Journals can also work toward attaining recognition from reputable bodies like COPE, the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), to enhance their credibility.
- Journals should aim for inclusion in high-impact indexing databases, such as Scopus, Web of Science, and DOAJ. This would increase visibility and impact.
- Financial sustainability is a key challenge for OA journals, and alternative funding models beyond author fees should be explored. Collaboration with libraries for institutional support and consortia-based funding can also provide financial stability.
- To reduce operational costs and streamline editorial processes, OA e-journals in LIS can collaborate with established open-access publishing platforms or university presses. These platforms often provide essential resources such as peer-review management systems, marketing support, and technical infrastructure.
- LIS professionals, researchers, and students need guidance to identify reputable OA journals. Library webpages should give users links to OA e-journals.
- Rigorous studies on the use and usability of OA e-journals should be conducted regularly. OA e-journals should conduct periodic assessments of their performance based on metrics, such as citation impact, download counts, and reader feedback. Self-assessment allows journals to identify areas for improvement, set growth targets, and adjust editorial and operational quality.
- Encouraging greater collaboration with researchers, librarians, and practitioners through special issues, thematic collections, and editorial boards with diverse expertise can strengthen the relevance of a journal. Engagement with the LIS community can provide valuable feedback on the emerging trends. LIS professionals must also create more awareness of these OA e-journals.

DISCUSSION

There has been a rapid urge in the user community to obtain more Information Online. Academic libraries facing shrinking budgets are trying to acquire quality Information Resources as efficiently and effectively as possible. This was coupled with a positive attitude. OA e-journals are available in accepted standards, and users are using OA e-journals satisfactorily. These resources play a crucial role in advancing research, promoting knowledge dissemination, and supporting equitable access to information. OA journals in LIS contribute to the democratization of information by removing financial barriers, allowing practitioners, researchers, and students worldwide to benefit from the latest research and innovations. These journals cover a wide range of LIS topics, including digital curation, information retrieval, scholarly communication, knowledge management, and information literacy. Many are well-established, peer-reviewed, and hosted by reputable institutions. By providing unrestricted access to high-quality research, these journals support global advancements in information science, bridge knowledge gaps, and empower professionals and researchers to address emerging challenges in the information age.

CONCLUSION

However, challenges remain, such as ensuring consistent funding, maintaining high-quality peer-review processes, and safeguarding against predatory publishing practices by focusing on rigorous quality control, effective funding strategies, community engagement, and transparent peer-review standards. To enhance the reputation and effectiveness of OA e-journals in LIS, efforts must focus on strengthening peer-review rigor, improving transparency, and addressing financial sustainability. The results of this study can be useful for information scientists studying or working with portal-based retrieval of e-resources, and for the designers and developers of future online interactive information retrieval systems.

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