

An analytical study of Editorial and Publication Policies of the Open Access Journals of Library and Information Science

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Abstract

Background: Open-access journals of Library and Information Science (LIS) have been a key medium for library professionals and academicians to publish their research results. The publication policy of the journals is a significant aspect for the authors, editors, reviewers, and publishers, which becomes guidelines to assist all the stakeholders' work under policies.

Purpose: The study is conducted to find out the status of the publication policy and editorial policies of Open Access (OA) journals of Library and Information Science which are indexed by publishers from various countries in the SCOPUS, Web of Science, University Grant Commission (UGC) Care List, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), etc. The study was conducted to find out and assess the indexing of OA journals in the citation database and their countries, factors of publication and editorial policy, periodicity, archiving policy, publication fees, and ethical perspectives in the societal context.

Design/methodology/approach: The study was initiated by the selection of 151 OA journals of library and information science that are indexed in the citation database, UGC Care List, DOAJ, etc., and after scrutinizing the websites, the database was worked out in an Excel sheet made for this purpose. This is needed because the policies differ from journal to journal, and researchers are often confused as to which one would be the best to follow for their research results.

Findings: The USA has indexed the highest number of 21.38% of OA journals in the LIS database. It was found that 82.12% of OA journals preferred the "Double Blind Peer Review" review process; the CC-BY copyright licensing policy is adopted by 46.36% of OA journals; more than 88.74% of journals do not charge for article processing; and 93.37% of OA journals levied an article submission charge. 58.94% of OA journals have a plagiarism policy that ensures the purity and authenticity of the publications; however, it is very low and needs to be adopted for the integrity of the research.



Practical implications: In order to conduct a study that was dispersed among all journals separately and make use of the material that was available to stakeholders—researchers, librarians, academicians, etc.—the authors faced the issue of gathering all the necessary information in one location. The analysis of the LIS journals served as the study's sole foundation.

Originality/value: In order to evaluate trends, kinds, and natures of policy patterns, this research shows how to analyze editorial and publication policies in a thorough and instructive manner. In order to support scientists, academics, and researchers in their work as they prepare research articles for journal publication, it is also necessary to develop inclusive policies.

Keywords: Publication Policy, Editorial Policy, Citation style, Review Process, Open Access, Publication Ethics, Archiving Policy.

1. Introduction

Open Access Journal has been a key medium for the library and information science community that provides a platform for high visibility and wide access to its research results free of cost without any constraints. Many international platforms advocated for the open access to the research work like the Budapest Open Access Initiatives, Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the science and humanities, Delhi Declaration on Open Access, Directory of Open Access Journals, etc. and brought up the concept that made popular among the scholars and felt the importance in research contexts. Munshi (2008) states that OA gives the breeze and pumps more oxygen and removes the suffocated barriers of subscription, licensing fees, pay per view and other copyright restrictions. It gives an opportunity to access freely the peer reviewed articles.

The journals become well known on the basis of Editorial Policies which are framed by its editorial board for setting up effective guidelines that directs the authors to write the quality papers and authentic manuscripts. There are many open access journals of library and information science which are being published from various corners of the world. These open access journals are a platform where scholars of library and information science publish their research for scholarly publishing. These are the major journals that ease the constraints of the economic and peer review issues; most of the journals are peer reviewed and without any publication charges. The editorial policy of the open access journals of library and information science can be found through its websites. Sherpa Romeo can also be visited to get the aggregate information about the journals at one place (Romeo, 2023).

2. Publication and Editorial Policy:

It is important to know for the authors about the publication and editorial policy of journals, because each journal has its own different policy according to which the researchers and the authors are dealt. Researchers' works are mostly rejected due to little knowledge of the publication and editorial policy of a particular journal where they wish to get their works published. There are different issues like article processing and submission charges, business models, reviewing processes, creative commons copyright licensing, archiving policies, publication ethics, privacy statement or policy, publication ethics, disclosure of conflict of authors, etc. which authors need to know. A Referencing and citation style is defined by the journals often in their author guidelines, where it is needed to give the details of the cited documents in particular styles. The explanation is given about some of the basic features of editorial and publication policies of open access journals:

Article processing charges: is an essential part of the publication and editorial policy that has an impact on the authors and researchers for opting the open access model for their research publishing. It is observed that many journals charge for the article processing and submission, which often becomes a major hindrance in the way of scholarly communication.

Business Model of the journal defines the category of the journals- whether it is open access or closed access, and open access is categorized further as gold access, green access and hybrid open access. The business model of the journal plays a vital role in the wide publicity of scholarly communication and research outputs.

Review Process implies maintaining the quality and authenticity of the publication, and minutely checking the work done by the author. This review process is very important to control the plagiarism, redundancy, and duplicity of the research work and act as a foundation of quality in research. Double Blind Review Process is considered highly technical, and it is often tough to scrutinize the papers for its suitability of publications.

Creative Commons licensing provides the standardization of the public permission to the creative work of individual creator under the copyright law. The seal of creative commons license on the copyrighted works guides the user as "what can I do with this work". Creative commons deal with six different types of licenses like CC-BY, CC-BY-SA, CC-BY-NC, CC-BY-NC-SA, CC-BY-ND, and CC-BY-NC-ND. CC-BY license allows to the user for commercial use, where credit must be given to the creator. It can be remixed, distributed, adapted and rebuilt upon material. SA stands for Adaptation, and it must be shared, which can be added with CC-BY, and then it becomes CC-BY-SA. NC

stands for Non Commercial Use, and it added with CC-BY, becomes CC-BY-NC. By adding NC and SA with CC-BY, it becomes CC-BY-NC-SA license, which allows the users to adhere to the attribute of CC-BY with Non Commercial purposes only; and this adaptation need to be shared under the same terms. ND stands for No Derivatives. Here adaptations of the work are permitted, and added with CC-BY it, becomes CC-BY-ND license that allows the users for commercial use to contain the CC-BY with No Derivatives. By adding NC and ND with CC-BY makes CC-BY-NC-ND license, that allows the users to download and share with others with an adapt form only, and materials cannot be changed and used commercially in any way. One more license type is CC-0, which means the creators give up their copyright, and keep the work in public domain for use of materials without any condition in any form (CC Licensing, 2023).

Archiving Policy is a policy which preserves the research and also provides the right to deposit into the institutional as well as digital repository. It also helps the research community to access the publications through their local infrastructure. It can be archived in any digital repository, institutional repository or any other international platform where it can be preserved for the future endeavor and long term access; such platforms may be LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe), CLOCKSS (Controlled LOCKSS), Portico, PKP PN (Public Knowledge Project Preservation Network), etc. Self-Archiving is a strategy in which authors make available his research work for access to others by preserving it in institutional repository or national repository. LOCKSS is a program initiative of Stanford Libraries, and accepted as a best practice in the digital preservation field to ensure it for long period preservation. CLOCKSS is a unique approach to archiving, initiated by Stanford University Librarians in 1999, where digital documents are stored and preserved. Under the CLOCKSS system, the contents are archived with potential technology, considering the economic, environmental, and political issues. PKP PN is developed by PKP to digitally preserve the Open Journal Systems journals, and preserves only those digital contents which are not preserved in the LOCKSS, CLOCKSS and Portico preservation services for long term access CLOCKSS, 2023 .

COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) provides the guidelines which educate the authors and publishers at the time of publishing activities. It plays a vital role in scholarly publishing process to share their knowledge and ideas to ensure ethical practices and become part of the culture (COPE, 2023). ICMJE stands for International Committee of Medical Journals, where editors work as a group of general medical journals editors, who conduct a meeting annually and works on the recommendation of conducts, reporting editing and publishing articles in medical journals (ICMJE, 2023).

Erratum, Corrections, and Retraction policy of the journals provides the

opportunities to the researcher for rectifying the errors in the name of authors, title, years, volumes, etc. Sometimes there is an inadvertent error that breaches the ethics and authenticity of the research. If there are major issues with data management, authorship, plagiarism, unethical research, the research can be retracted and removed from the literature under the retraction policies.

3. Review of Literature:

The various earlier research work and articles were reviewed to comprehend the policies and formulate the objectives of the study. This review is divided into two parts-the first one on editorial policies, and the second one on publication policies.

Armbruster (2011) revealed that journals have complexities to adopt the open access policies because of challenges in achieving the recognized success. Castellà et al. (2016) expressed a view that open access business models can be the future of journals; mobile versions of the journals, social media, data policy, and altmetrics are indispensable areas that may be incorporated in the policy to optimize the access of the journal. According to Kumar et al. (2014) the editorial policies play a crucial role for wide accessibility and maintaining the quality and authenticity of the journals. Osborne et al., (2009) advocated for consideration of ethical responsibility of the researchers while framing the editorial policy of the journal. Supak-Smolcic & Simundic (2015) discussed the requirement of unambiguous author guidelines so that the author could format their research work as per the guidelines without any confusion. Gibson & O'Hanlon (2020) argued that conflict of interest has been a very significant issue among the research stakeholders due to the financial and non-financial factors which needs to be clarified vividly in editorial policy. Todorova et al. (2014) found that awareness about copyright licensing and intellectual property rights should be promulgated among library and information science researchers. Governments, institutions, and associations create regulations to deal with conflict of interest issues on behalf of the general public (Lo & Field, 2009). Hanlon & Ramirez (2011) extracted another important point that is the information gap about copyright in publication policies, which must be filled up. Malički et al. (2019) indicated that consistent revise of editorial and author's instructions policies is indeed a demand to avoid the detrimental research practices and ensured the opaque reporting of research. Feige (1975) is of the opinion of a standard template of the editorial policies which can fulfill the requirement of the research format, and newly defined policies must be implemented in a wise and appropriate manner.

Utrobičić et al. (2014) advised that the publication policies must be very clear so that research community could rely on the journals which bring the international recognition and scientific impression. Schulman et al. (1994) found that reviewer must have the subjective knowledge of concerned research to improve the content quality of the journal and it may be mandatory in publication policies. Vishwakarma & Mukherjee (2014) pointed out that publication policy should incorporate review methods of international standard. Kim (2007) analyzed from the review of literature that creative commons licenses of copyright issues in publication and editorial policy occupies a significant place in case of open access journals. Dove et al. (2019) critically examined that the selection of journals for publishing requires subtle scrutiny of publication policies of journals, and doubts should be clarified by editors if any arises. Bosch et al. (2012) indicated that the publishers of the journals should standardize their publication policies at international level for tackling allegations of misconduct that will build up intense trust among the researchers. Lawrence (2003) is of the opinion that there is a politics of publications in the research world for getting published their results, though, the authors, editors and reviewers have the important responsibility to sustain the quality of research without any publication bias. Young et al. (2008) advised that in terms of society's benefits, the publication policies should be based on moral principles, and the quality of study methods and their rigorous implementation. It may be summed up that overall clear guidelines in the publication policy shows a review of publications without distorting the creativity of the work may be created.

4. Objectives of the Study:

- To assess the OA journals of library and information science indexed by countries in citation database (SCOPUS & WoS), UGC Care List, and DOAJ.
- To assess the factors of publications and editorial policies of the OA journals of LIS
- To find out the periodicity, archiving policies, plagiarism policies with Anti-Plagiarism Tools, and publication ethics with COPE compliance of the OA journals.
- To assess the Creative Commons Copyright Licensing Policy of the OA journals of library science.
- To find out methods of review processes and referencing styles of the journals.

- To analyze the Publication Fees in terms of Article Processing Charge (APC) and Article Submission Charge (ASC).
- To analyze the availability of Erratum, Corrections, and Retraction Policies.

5. Research Methodology:

The open access library and information science journals were extracted from the DOAJ, SCOPUS, Web of Science and UGC-Care List through the basic search for subject category of Library and Information Science.

The search was conducted selecting a strategy of subject category - Bibliography and Information Resources in DOAJ; Library and Information Science in Scopus; Library and Information Science along with Information Science and Library Science in Web of Science; and Library and information Science in UGC-Care List which resulted in 151 OA journals of LIS. The total no. of 151 OA journals selected are enlisted in DOAJ, Scopus, Web of Science and UGC-Care List publishing from different parts of the world, and these were selected for the study of the publication and editorial policies through scrutinizing their websites.

At the time of websites scrutiny of the publication and editorial policies of the journals, it is observed that many journals are commonly indexed in more than one database and it was also found that there were various factors responsible for the publication and editorial policies or related information which are available on the websites. These were aggregated in the excel sheets to study of the data for further analysis, and this sheet is used to prepare the graphs, figures, and tables for analysis as per available data.

The study has limitations, since exclusively only the Open Access Journals of Library and information Science which are indexed in the DOAJ, SCOPUS, Web of Science and UGC-Care List were selected for the study. This can be useful for the library professionals and researchers to know about the situations related to editorial policies, and will influence the authors to read the editorial policy of the journals to avoid the misperception regarding APC (Article Processing Charge), ASC (Article Submission Charge), review processes, copyright licensing, archiving policies, publication ethics, etc.

6. Data Analysis:

6.1 Country-Wise OA Journals of LIS:

Table-1 shows that USA has indexed 21.38% journals in the various citation database which is highest among all the countries; 2nd highest is Brazil that has indexed 7.55% journals and Spain is 3rd highest country that indexed 5.66% journal in DOAJ and other database. It shows that USA is the biggest contributor in the OA publications and other countries also need to take initiatives for increasing the numbers. Some examples of open access journals in Library Science are Weave: Journal of Library User Experience published by Michigan Publishing from USA; Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association published by University of Alberta, Canada; Information Technology and Libraries (ITAL) published by American Library Association USA; JLIS.it Italian Journal of Library and Information Science published by Edizioni Università di Macerata Italy.

Table 1 List of Countries with No. of Indexed OA Journals in Database

Countries	No. of Jr.	%	Countries	No. of Jr.	%	Countries	No. of Jr.	%
Argentina	1	0.63	Germany	3	1.89	Portugal	1	0.63
Austria	1	0.63	India	7	4.40	Qatar	1	0.63
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	0.63	Indonesia	5	3.14	Romania	4	2.52
Brazil	12	7.55	Iran, Islamic Republic of	4	2.52	Serbia	1	0.63
Bulgaria	1	0.63	Italy	4	2.52	Singapore	1	0.63
Canada	5	3.14	Japan	1	0.63	South Africa	2	1.26
China	1	0.63	Kenya	1	0.63	Spain	9	5.66
Columbia	1	0.63	Korea, Republic of	2	1.26	Sri Lanka	1	0.63
Costa Rica	1	0.63	Lithuania	2	1.26	Sweden	1	0.63
Croatia	2	1.26	Malaysia	1	0.63	Switzerland	5	3.14
Cuba	1	0.63	Mexico	1	0.63	Taiwan	1	0.63
Czech Republic	1	0.63	Netherlands	2	1.26	Turkey	2	1.26
Egypt	1	0.63	Norway	1	0.63	Ukraine	6	3.77
Finland	1	0.63	Pakistan	1	0.63	United Kingdom	8	5.03
France	1	0.63	Poland	8	5.03	USA	34	21.38

6.2 Indexing of OA Journals

Table-2 reveals that total numbers of 151 journals are taken for the study, in which 92.72% journals are indexed in DOAJ, 60.93% journals in other databases, directories etc.; 35.76% journals in SCOPUS and 30.46% journal are

indexed in Web of Science. The analysis shows that OA journals which are indexed in SCOPUS, Web of Science are commonly indexed in DOAJ, UGC Care List, and other databases.

Table 2 Indexing in Database (n=151)

Databases	No. of Jr.	%
SCOPUS	54	35.76
Web of Science	46	30.46
DOAJ	140	92.72
UGC-Care List	16	10.60
Others	92	60.93

6.3 Factors of Publication and Editorial Policy:

Fig.1 depicted that 91.39% journals have clear editorial policy, in which they have mentioned guidelines and policies for publications, whereas 8.61% journals either have no publication and editorial policy, or have given the ambiguous information regarding guidelines. 52.32% journals mentioned policy of disclosure of conflict of interest; whereas, 47.68% journals have not mentioned this factor clearly. Only 17.22% journals have been indexed in Sherpa/Romeo, whereas, only 82.78% journals not indexed in this database, where any author can find the policies about the copyrights, embargo period, archiving policies, etc. The privacy statement about author and their work is very serious, that guarantees about the authors’ and their research work, which may not be used publicly by the publishers; and it is found from the study that 77.48% journals clearly mentioned about the privacy statement or policy about authors’ details. Erratum, Correction and Retraction are very important part of the policy that enables the author to make rectification, and if there is major issues with the research, that can be retracted. 42.38% journals mentioned correction retraction policy whereas 57.62% journals have not mentioned it in their publication and editorial policy, though; journals must include erratum, correction and retraction policy to maximize the authenticity of the research work.

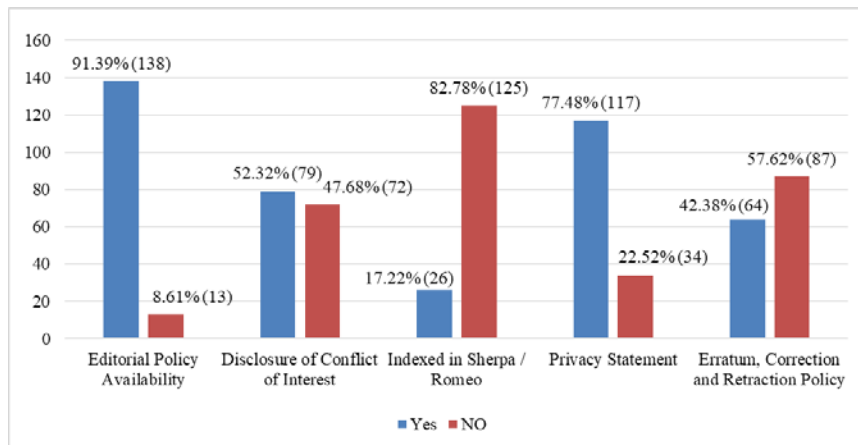


Figure 1 Factors of Publication & Editorial Policy

6.4 Periodicity of the OA Journals:

Fig. 2 depicts that periodicity of 40.40% journals are bi-annual, which means these are published twice a year, and 27.81% journals are quarterly. It is also found that 22.52% journals are published annually, whereas 1.32% journals are Bi-Monthly. The periodicity of Bi-Monthly and Monthly are very low, whereas that of Bi-annually is the highest. It is found from the study that Bi-annually is most popular periodicity of the journals among the publishers of OA journals of Library and Information Science. If we analyze the periodicity of some journals, we find some examples that Pakistan Journal of Information Management & Libraries published by Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press from Qatar in English & Arabic is a Bi-annual publication; Bibliotečnij visnik, Library Journal published by Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine from Ukraine is a quarterly journal, published in English and Ukrainian language.

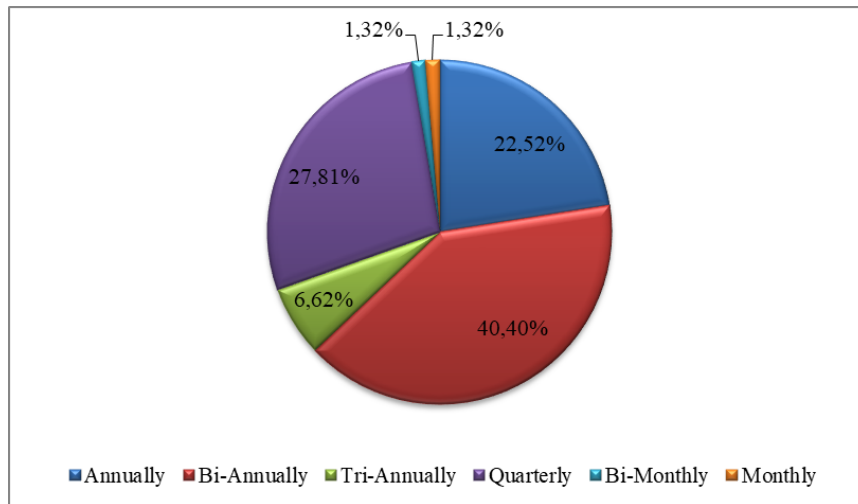


Figure 2 Periodicity of the OA Journals of LIS

6.5 Article Processing Charges (APC) and Article Submission Charges (ASC):

Fig.3 shows that the fees for article publishing are very significant in OA journals for the researcher because they have economic issues in the research, and face challenges. It can be seen in Fig. 3 that only 9.27% journals charges for APC and 4.63% journals charge for ASC, whereas 88.74% journals do not charge for APC and 93.37% for ASC. It is also observed that 1.99% journals for APC and 1.99% journals for ASC have no clear policy of charges. The study shows that most journals do not charge for Article Processing and Article Submission which are very important factors of the editorial policy, which may be an attraction for the author to opt the OA journals for publishing their research works. This may be cited with the following examples-- Berkala Ilmu Perpustakaan dan Informasi BIP published by Universitas Gadjah Mada from Indonesia has Article Processing Charge and without Article Submission Charge; Studii de Biblioteconomie și Știința Informării Library and Information Science Research published by University of Bucharest from Romania does not have Article processing charge as well as Article submission charge.

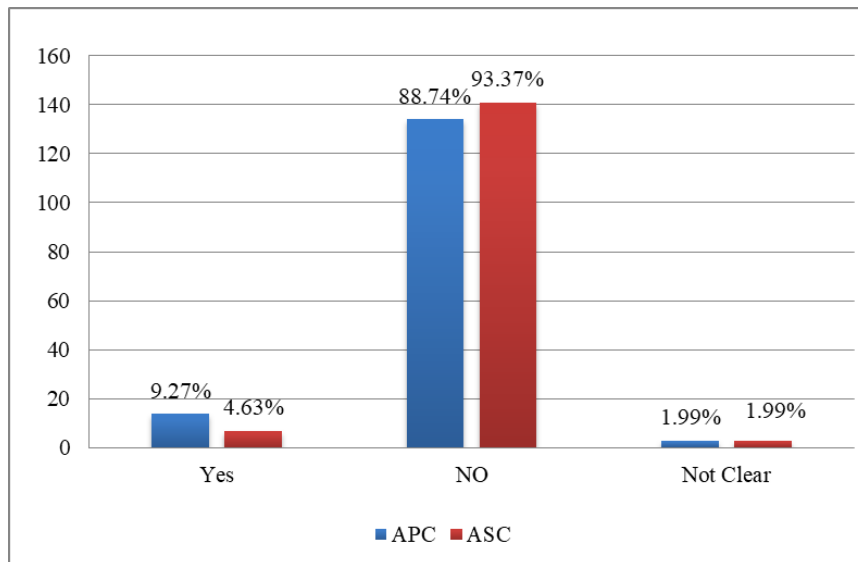


Figure 3 Article Publishing Charges and Article Submission Charges

6.6 Creative Commons Copyright Licensing Policy:

The copyright Licensing Policy is a significant factor of the Editorial policy that should be clearly mentioned in the policy and journals’ websites without creating any ambiguity. Fig. 4 depicts that 46.36% journals have CC-BY, which reveals that users have rights for commercial use by giving the credits to the creators; such journals can be remixed, distributed, adapted and rebuilt upon the materials. 17.22% journals have CC-BY-NC-ND Copyright Licensing Policy which explains that users can copy and distribute the materials in any form with unadapt form only. There will be no commercial use and the attribution will be given to creator; it also says that no derivatives or adaptation of the work are permitted. Only 2.65% journals have CC-BY-ND Copyright Licensing Policy which states that users can copy and distribute the materials in any form with attributions given to the creator, and also allows commercial use without derivatives or adaptation of works. 4.64% journals have no clear policy regarding Copyright Licensing Policy. It is found from the study that CC-BY Copyright Licensing Policy is most preferable policy among the publishers of the OA LIS journals which is very encouraging for the researchers to submit their OA related articles.

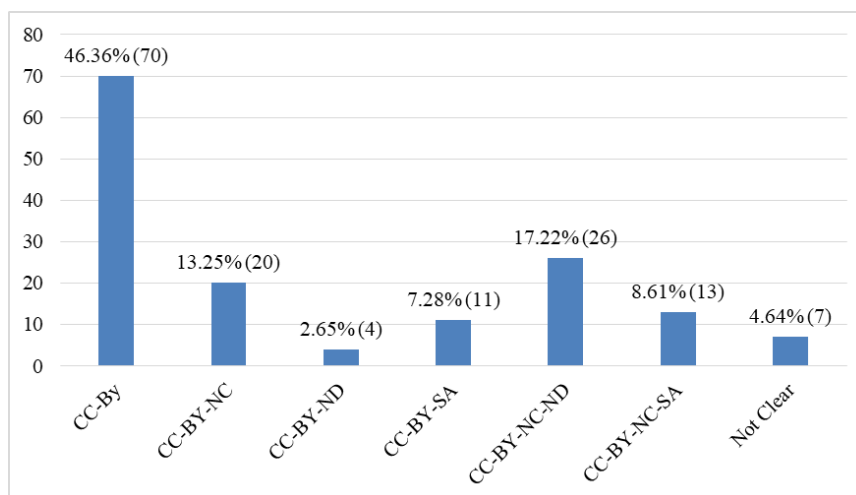


Figure 4 Creative Commons Copyright Licensing Policy

6.7 Referencing and Citation Style:

All the journals use various referencing and citation styles for cited works. In this case, Table-3 shows that 45.70% OA journals have adopted the American Psychological Association (APA) style of referencing and citation, whereas 13.25% journals are using Chicago Manual Style of referencing and citation style for cited documents. CSE (Council of Science Editors) Reference Style and Turabian Style have preference only by 0.66% journals, which is very low. 11.26% journals have not mentioned clearly about the referencing and citation styles, whereas it is also depicted from Table-3 that 5.96% journals accept the papers as per Self-Journals Style in terms of referencing and citation styles, in which they mention the author guidelines through self-made examples for framing the references and citations. It is found from the analysis that APA style is the most preferable style among the publishers of the OA LIS journals for referencing and citations.

Table 3 Referencing and Citation Style of OA Journals

Styles	No.	%
ABNT-NBR-6023	9	5.96
ACS Style	2	1.32
APA Style	69	45.70

As per Self-Journal Style	9	5.96
Chicago Manual Style	20	13.25
CSE Ref. Style	1	0.66
Harvard Style	5	3.31
IEEE Style	3	1.99
ISO 690 Style	6	3.97
MLA Style	3	1.99
NLM Style	2	1.32
Turabian	1	0.66
Vancouver Style	4	2.65
Not Clear	17	11.26
	151	100.00

6.8 Review Processes:

The review processes of any journal helps to standardize the quality and authenticity of the journals. Table-4 states that 82.12% journals follow the Double Blind Peer Review processes, which increase the quality of the journals. This requires that all articles pass through tough scrutiny by the two reviewers, whereas 9.93% journals follow the Single Blind Peer Review process. 5.30% journals mentioned that they follow the Peer Review process but whether it is 'Double' or 'Single' is not clear. 2.65% journals have no clear policy of Review Process for the submitted articles. It is found from the study that Double Blind Peer Review process is most preferable among the publishers of the OA journals that authenticate the quality of the journals.

Table 4 Review Processes of OA LIS Journals

Review Processes	No.	%
Double Blind Peer Review	124	82.12
Single Blind Peer Review	15	9.93
Peer Review	8	5.30
Not Clear	4	2.65

6.9 Plagiarism Policy of OA Journals:

The Plagiarism Policy of any journals is an important part of the publication and editorial policy, which certifies the purity of the data or research results by checking the work through Anti-Plagiarism tools or software. Fig.5 depicts that 58.94% OA journals have mentioned in their websites about the Plagiarism Policy whereas 39.73% journals have no plagiarism policy mentioned on websites in their publication and editorial policy. 1.32% journals are not clear about the plagiarism policy and Anti-Plagiarism tools. It is found from the Table-5 that out of 89, 35 journals (39.32%) clearly mentioned about using types of Anti-Plagiarism Tools in which 42.86% journals adopted the iThenticate Anti-Plagiarism Tools and 37.14% journals are using Turnitin Anti Plagiarism Tools for checking the plagiarism of the works. It is found from the study that most of the journals have plagiarism policy and many journals adopted the iThenticate and Turnitin Anti-Plagiarism tools for checking plagiarism. The OA journals should mention plagiarism policy in clear way and which type of anti-plagiarism tools are being used for checking the plagiarism. Plagiarism policy brings the integrity and purity in the research and controls the scientific misconduct.

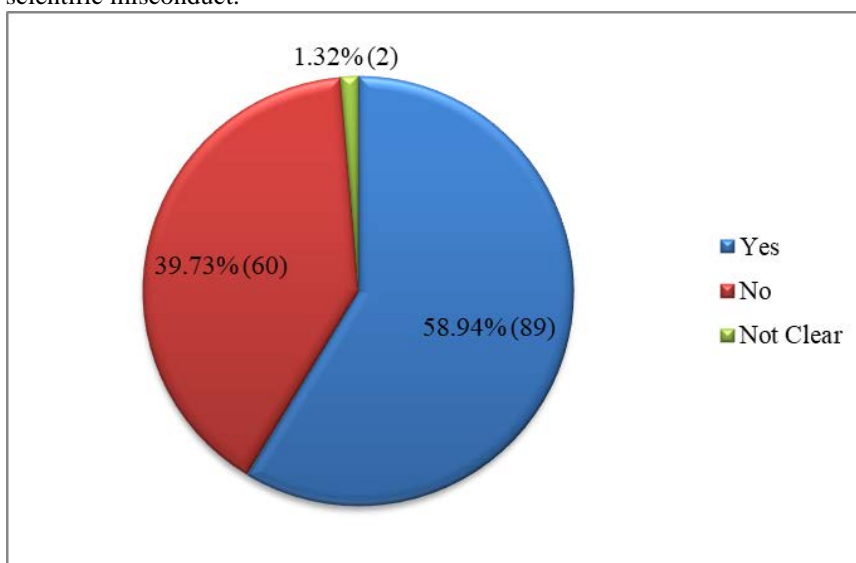


Figure 5 Plagiarism Policy of OA Journals in LIS

Table 5 Anti-Plagiarism Tools Used by 35 Journals out of 89

Tools	No.	%
Cross Checks	2	5.71
iThenticate	15	42.86
Similarity Checks	2	5.71
Turnitin	13	37.14
Unicheck	1	2.86
Urkund	1	2.86
Write Check	1	2.86

35

6.10 Archiving Policy:

Archiving policy is useful for the preservation of the publication to be accessed in future by the upcoming generations. Table-6 states that 50.99% journals have no archiving policy as found on their websites in the scrutiny, whereas 6.62% journals have self - archiving policy, which means that authors can submit the publications in their institutional repository or national repository. The study also found that 26.49% of journals adopted the archiving policy under LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) on the open source software application which is providing for robust, peer to peer digital preservation. 7.28% journal have adopted the archiving policy under CLOCKSS (Controlled of LOCKSS) with no user access, unless a trigger event occurs which preserves scholarly publications in original format by ensuring long term validity of data. It is found from the study that encouragement for archiving the digital contents under any international platform requires preserving the publications for future use.

Table 6 Archiving Policy of OA Journals of LIS

Policies	No.	%
Bepress Archive Service	1	0.66
CLOCKSS	11	7.28
LOCKSS	40	26.49
PDXScholar	1	0.66
PKP PN	7	4.64
Portico	4	2.65
Self-Archiving	10	6.62
NO	77	50.99
	151	100.00

6.11 Publication Ethics:

Publication Ethics has always been a debating issue among the research community and it is accountability of the publishers, authors, editors, and reviewers to conduct the scholarly publishing under international standardized publication guidelines to avoid the duplicity, plagiarism misconduct, and conflict among contributors, which must be dealt under some reliable international guidelines. Table-7 states that 51.66% journals adopted the COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) in the scholarly publishing to deal with the issues, whereas 45.70% journals have not mentioned any adoption of any international guidelines of publication ethics on their websites. It is found from the study that still most of the journals have not adopted publication ethics of any international ethical guidelines. This must be accorded and encouraged and must be adopted by the journals to bring the transparency in the scholarly publishing.

Table 7 Publication Ethics of OA Journals of LIS

Publication Ethics	No.	%
COPE	78	51.66
Elsevier Publishing Ethics	1	0.66
ICMJE	3	1.99
NO	69	45.70

151

7. Discussions:

The study is conducted to investigate the editorial and publication policy of the OA journals of LIS. Table 1 shows how indexed OA journals are distributed across various nations; while certain nations (such as the USA and Brazil) have a substantial representation of OA journals in the database, others have a more modest presence. However, it should be noted that these countries are large and have a much larger population than some of the other countries. This represents how various countries engage in open access publishing to differing degrees, with some having a stronger presence than others. The initiative to make publications available through various digital archives has been spearheaded by Australia, the UK, and several other European nations (Chaudhuri & Baker, 2015). One of the main reasons for the open access model's popularity is that it gives researchers and the general public unrestricted access to data (Shea & Prasad, 2013).

Figure 1 illustrates a complex picture of the factors influencing publishing and editing practices in these publications as conflicts of interest occur frequently yet go unreported (Dunn et al., 2016) and such conflict of interest arises mostly in the medical profession due to a weaker policy (Lo et al., 2001). There is potential for improvement in areas like reporting conflicts of interest, having clear protocols for managing errors and retractions, and establishing archiving policies even though many journals have editorial policies and privacy statements. These elements are essential for guaranteeing openness, excellence, and moral publication procedures in academic journals.

The study indicates through Figure 3 that the majority of the journals in this dataset do not impose APCs or ASCs, which is encouraging for authors who want to publish their work without facing financial constraints. The field has shown some degree of success, and low-APC journals and diamond journals are common in DOAJ (Borrego, 2023). Still, a tiny percentage of journals do levy these fees, and in a smaller number of journals, it is unclear whether fees are assessed or not. There is an urgent need for the APC system to alter in order to be inclusive (Rodrigues et al., 2022). These obstacles prevent academics, students, and institutions with lower incomes from publishing their work (Jain et al., 2021). To promote openness and give authors the information they need to make an educated decision about where to submit their research, it is crucial to communicate publishing costs clearly.

The study discusses the licensing systems of the OA journals of LIS which is shown Figure 4, CC-BY is the most popular license type among OA publications since it emphasizes openness and permits the widest variety of uses maximal. Certain issues brought on by the copyright dispute can be resolved in part by using Creative Commons (Kim, 2007). The CC BY license itself does not make it simpler for someone to steal your ideas because it calls for giving due credit where credit is due and acknowledging that the work is a copy of someone else's (Gulley, 2013). Other licenses, each with its own limits and rights, are, nevertheless, also in use. To understand how they may use and distribute the content supplied by OA journals, it's critical for authors, readers, and publishers to be informed about different license options. The mission of Creative Commons is to create, maintain, and manage the technological and legal framework necessary to increase digital innovation, sharing, and creativity (Karaali, 2013).

Table 3 shows the many different citation and reference styles that open access publications utilize, with APA style being the most common. The taxonomy was created by a thorough examination of current cutting-edge methods and accepted citation styles, including APA, MLA, AMA, and CBE (Ahmad et al., 2017). The variety of citation styles is a reflection of the multidisciplinary character of OA publications and the freedom given to writers to select the style

they like. To maintain uniformity and convenience for writers and readers, journals must explicitly define the style they have decided to employ. There is a need of more straightforward, uniform structure for reference citations in the text and bibliography so that scholars may focus on the science and its interpretation rather than typefaces and punctuation (Harries et al., 2013). The most common citation formats employed by authors of manuscripts intended for publication in biomedical journals were ICMJE, APA, Vancouver, Harvard, and PubMed styles (Masic, 2013).

Table 4's data demonstrates that OA LIS journals primarily employ the double-blind peer review procedure that is often regarded as a strict and impartial method of assessing scholarly contributions. Although there is considerable variation in review procedures, it is important to keep in mind that only a tiny percentage of journals use single-blind peer review, and in other instances, the review procedure is not explicitly stated. Single-blind reviewing gives articles by well-known authors and authors from prestigious institutions a substantial edge (Tomkins et al., 2017). The integrity of academic publication depends on the review process being transparent, hence journals should make an effort to inform authors and readers about their individual review processes in a straightforward manner. It explores the advantages and difficulties that open peer review presents for the academic publishing community and comes to the conclusion that open peer review can and should be a part of the current scholarly publishing paradigm (Ford, 2013). Scholarly publications now place a greater emphasis on peer review when determining whether an article is appropriate for publication. It is crucial that the process is impartial, vigorous, productive, and fair. One of the key tactics used by publishers to accomplish these ends is blinding (Schroeder & Aloè, 2021).

By spotting and correcting suspected cases of plagiarism, these technologies are essential for maintaining the integrity of scientific publishing. Plagiarism is a research-related issue that must be maintained in any case. Academic integrity and the dignity of research and education cannot endure with high values without this spirit (Jilani & Ahmad, 2021). Table 5 shows that the subgroup of journals under investigation uses a range of anti-plagiarism methods. The most popular programs are iThenticate and Turnitin, although others like Cross Checks, Similarity Checks, Unicheck, Urkund, and Write Check also help to uphold academic integrity in publication. Publishers of journals need a better method to raise awareness and stop wrongdoing (Hong, 2017).

Table 6 depicted that OA LIS journals have a wide range of digital archiving practices and services. The issue is presently more convoluted than before, and

self-archiving choices are being eclipsed by the plethora of OA options (Koley & Lala, 2022). While some journals have effective archiving systems in place, such as LOCKSS and CLOCKSS, whereas a sizable minority do not declare their archiving strategy, which might raise questions regarding the long-term preservation of intellectual literature. The three main digital preservation projects, LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, and PORTICO, are designed to safeguard and preserve digital material for long-term usage and access (Shah & Gul, 2019). To guarantee the accessibility and longevity of their published work over time, open access journals must have defined archiving policies or collaborations with reputable preservation networks. At various organizational levels, hundreds of policies have been suggested and approved, and many of them have had a favorable impact on the rate of repository content accumulation (Xia et al., 2012).

The Table 7 presents a mostly encouraging picture of publishing ethics in open access LIS journals, with more than half of them adhering to the COPE principles. COPE invites institutions, corporations that produce peer-reviewed academic publications, and editors of peer-reviewed academic journals to join as individual or corporate members (Jayaraj et al., 2022). To sustain confidence and respect in the academic community, these publications must keep aiming for greater ethical standards. The significance of public discussion in practical and applied ethics means that ethicists have a special interest in supporting novel, innovative, and participatory ways to publication as well as promoting a variety of experimental forms of publication and debate (Parker, 2013). The organization's membership is expanding quickly, and big publishers are prepared to pay for their journals to be a part of COPE, indicating that it is respected (Wager, 2012).

8. Conclusions:

These facts make it clear that the publication and editorial policies varies from journal to journal. A simple and thoughtful publication and editorial policy of Open Access journals is the need of the hour, so that more and more researchers can submit their works in these journals. The publication and editorial policy of the OA journals needs to be created with rigorous efforts and expertise, so that the policies can be more transparent, and accordingly the researchers may be interested to publish their works in large numbers in OA journals. The publication and editorial policy of the OA journals is a significant factor for the authors, editors, reviewers, and publishers which serve as guidelines to assist all stakeholders to work under policies.

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