

Comparative Bibliometric Study of the Journal of Indian Library Association and Pearl: A Journal of Library and Information Science

Shreyashi Roy

Student, Sadhu Ramchand Murmu University of Jhargram, India
E-mail: shreyashi.jh.2020@gmail.com

Tanu Thakur

Student, Sadhu Ramchand Murmu University of Jhargram, India
E-mail: tanuthakurjgm@gmail.com

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to conduct a comparative bibliometric analysis of two leading Indian Library and Information Science (LIS) journals—Journal of Indian Library Association (JILA) and PEARL—to examine publication trends, authorship patterns, citation behaviour, and subject coverage during the period 2017–2022.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The study adopts bibliometric and quantitative research methods. Data were collected from official journal websites covering six years of publications. A total of 479 research articles were analysed using indicators such as year-wise distribution, authorship pattern, length of papers, citation trends, issue-wise distribution, authors' category, geographical contribution, and subject-wise distribution.

Findings: The results reveal that PEARL published a slightly higher number of articles than JILA during the study period. Collaborative authorship dominated in both journals, with two-author contributions being the most common. Indian authors contributed most articles, and Karnataka emerged as the most productive state. Bibliometrics, scientometrics, and survey-based studies were the most frequently covered subject areas.

Research Limitations: The study is limited to only two LIS journals and a six-year time frame. Citation data were confined to journal-level records.

Practical Implications: The findings provide useful insights for librarians, researchers, and policymakers for journal selection, collection development, and understanding research trends in LIS.

Originality/Value: This study offers a systematic and comparative bibliometric evaluation of two prominent Indian LIS journals, contributing original insights into publishing patterns and research trends in the field.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis; Library and Information Science; JILA; PEARL; Authorship Pattern; Research Trends.

1. Introduction: Information has become an indispensable element of human life, playing a vital role in education, research, and decision-making. In the modern knowledge society, information is often regarded as the fifth basic human need after air, water, food, and shelter. The exponential growth of scholarly publications has created challenges in identifying high-quality and relevant information sources. Bibliometrics serves as an effective tool to analyse, evaluate, and measure scholarly communication patterns.

How to Cite this Article

Roy, Shreyashi & Thakur, Tanu (2024). Comparative Bibliometric Study of the Journal of Indian Library Association and Pearl: A Journal of Library and Information Science. *LIS Links Newsletter*, 10(1), 15-21. <http://newsletter.lislinks.com>

The term “bibliometrics” was introduced by Alan Pritchard in 1969, who defined it as the application of mathematical and statistical methods to books and other media of communication. While the discipline was formally named then, its foundations were laid much earlier by the work of Hulme, Fairthorne, and Bradford in the field of statistical bibliography. Today, bibliometrics is recognized as a quantitative research methodology within the broader domain of Library and Information Science (LIS), complementing traditional methods like surveys, experiments, and historical analysis.

Bibliometrics applies statistical techniques to analyze books, journal articles, and other forms of recorded knowledge. Its core techniques include citation analysis and authorship analysis; subject mapping and obsolescence studies.

These tools are extensively used to assess the growth and impact of scientific literature. By analyzing numerical data related to publications and citations, bibliometrics helps uncover hidden patterns in scholarly communication, such as evolving research trends, increasing collaboration, and journal preferences.

In professional and academic settings, bibliometric studies assist librarians and researchers in understanding:

- i) Publication Trends: Tracking how fields of study grow over time.
- ii) Authorship Behavior: Analyzing collaboration patterns among scholars.
- iii) Research Productivity: Assessing the impact and output of specific research entities.

In the context of LIS, these applications are essential for journal evaluation, collection development, and the overall assessment of research productivity.

India has made significant contributions to the development of bibliometrics through the work of scholars such as I.N. Sengupta, B.M. Gupta, I.K. Ravichandra Rao, and S. Subba Rao. Bibliometric research in India has been promoted through conferences, seminars, and workshops organized by institutions like DRTC and IASLIC. Indian LIS journals regularly publish bibliometric studies, reflecting the growing importance of this research area.

2. Objectives of the Study: The objectives of the study are:

- i) To analyse the year-wise distribution of articles in JILA and PEARL.
- ii) To examine authorship and collaboration patterns.
- iii) To study citation trends in both journals.
- iv) To identify subject-wise distribution of articles.
- v) To analyse geographical and state-wise contributions; and
- vi) To examine authors’ professional categories.

3. Methodology: The study is based on bibliometric analysis of articles published in JILA and PEARL journals from 2017 to 2022. Data were collected from the official websites of both journals and organised using spreadsheet tools. A total of 479 articles were analysed. Various bibliometric indicators were applied to fulfill the objectives of the study.

The data for the present bibliometric study were collected exclusively from secondary sources. All required data were extracted from the official websites and published PDF issues of two selected Library and Information Science journals, namely Journal of Indian Library Association (JILA) and

PEARL – Journal of Library and Information Science, covering a period of six years from 2017 to 2022.

The PDF files of individual journal issues were carefully examined, and relevant bibliographic information was manually extracted. The collected data included details such as the title of the article, year of publication, volume and issue number, number of authors, authors' affiliations, length of articles, number of citations, subject keywords, geographical location of authors, and authorship pattern. Each article was treated as a single unit of analysis.

After extraction, the data were systematically entered into Microsoft Excel for tabulation and verification. The compiled dataset was then classified and analyzed using basic statistical tools such as frequency counts and percentages to fulfill the objectives of the study. Tables and graphical representations were prepared based on the analyzed data to ensure clarity and accuracy in interpretation.

4. Data Analysis and Discussion: Table 1 presents the year-wise distribution of articles published in JILA and PEARL journals during the period 2017–2022. A total of 479 articles were published in both journals during the study period. The data indicate a gradual increase in the number of publications over the years, with the highest output recorded in 2021 (92 articles) and the lowest in 2017 (75 articles). JILA showed its maximum productivity in 2021, while PEARL recorded higher publication output in the earlier years. Overall, the table reflects a consistent growth trend in scholarly publications in both journals.

Table 1: Year-wise Distribution of Articles

Year	JILA Volume	JILA Articles	PEARL Volume	PEARL Articles	Total
2017	53	20	11	55	75
2018	54	23	12	49	72
2019	55	28	13	49	77
2020	56	41	14	42	83
2021	57	61	15	31	92
2022	58	53	16	27	80
Total	6	226	6	253	479

Table 2 depicts the distribution of articles contributed by Indian and foreign authors in JILA and PEARL journals. Out of 479 articles, a majority (449 articles) were contributed by Indian authors, while only 30 articles were authored by foreign contributors. This clearly indicates the dominance of Indian authorship in both journals. JILA recorded a slightly higher number of foreign contributions compared to PEARL. The findings highlight that both journals primarily serve as national platforms for Indian LIS researchers.

Table 3 illustrates the authorship pattern of articles published in JILA and PEARL during the study period. The data reveal that joint authorship is the most prevalent form of collaboration, particularly two-author contributions, accounting for the highest number of publications in both journals. Single-author contributions ranked second, while articles authored by three or more authors were comparatively fewer. This trend indicates a growing inclination toward collaborative research among LIS scholars.

Table 2: Contributions of Articles by Indian and Foreign Authors

Year	Indian (JILA)	Indian (PEARL)	Foreign (JILA)	Foreign (PEARL)	Total
2017	19	53	1	2	75
2018	20	46	3	3	72
2019	24	47	4	2	77
2020	39	41	2	1	83
2021	56	29	5	2	92
2022	48	27	5	0	80
Total	206	243	20	10	479

Table 3: Authorship Pattern

Year	One Author (JILA)	One Author (PEARL)	Two Authors (JILA)	Two Authors (PEARL)	Three Authors (JILA)	Three Authors (PEARL)
2017	8	21	11	26	1	8
2018	11	17	11	26	1	6
2019	12	19	14	26	2	4
2020	7	14	23	21	11	7
2021	14	10	31	15	16	6
2022	14	9	32	9	7	9
Total	66	90	122	123	38	40

Figure 1 shows the distribution of articles according to their length. Most articles in JILA fall within the 11–20-page range, followed by articles of 1–10 pages. In contrast, PEARL contains a higher number of shorter articles (1–10 pages). Very few articles in both journals exceeded 20 pages. The table indicates that medium-length articles are preferred for publication, especially in JILA.

Figure 1: Length of Articles

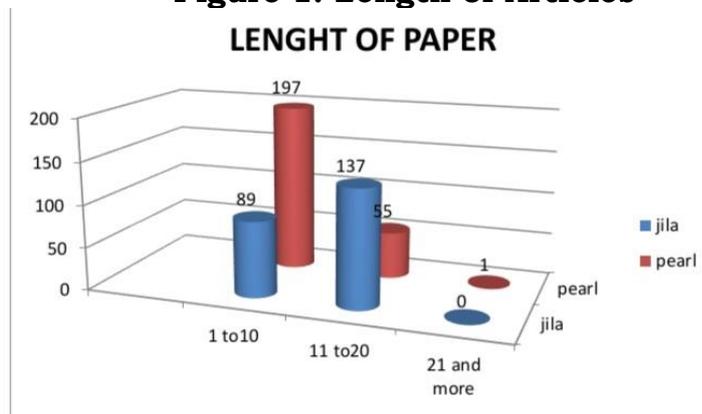


Table 4 presents the issue-wise distribution of articles in JILA and PEARL journals. A total of 479 articles were published across four issues annually. Issue number three recorded the highest number of publications in both journals, while issue number two in JILA and issue number four in PEARL recorded the lowest output. This suggests that mid-year issues tend to attract higher research contributions. PEARL contributed 253 articles, while JILA published 226 articles. The highest number of publications was recorded in 2021.

Table 4: Issue-wise Publications of Articles

Issue Number	Number of Publications in JILA	Number of Publications in PEARL	Total
1	58	60	118
2	49	67	116
3	60	68	128
4	59	58	117
Total	226	253	479

Figure 2: Issue-wise Publications of Articles

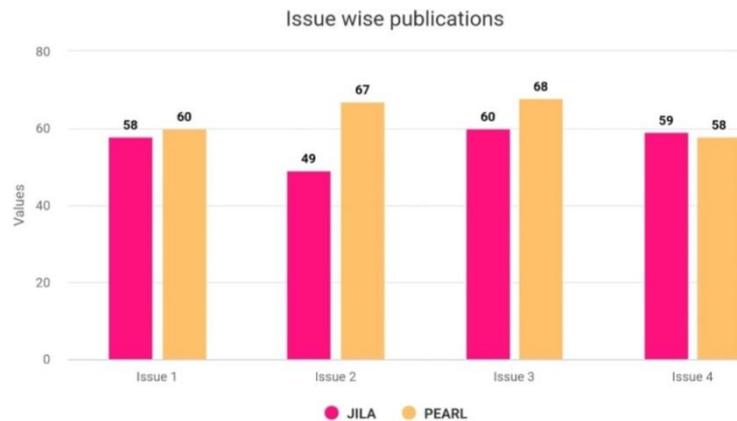


Table 5 shows the year-wise distribution of citations received by articles published in JILA and PEARL. A total of 1,935 citations were recorded during the study period. The data indicate a steady increase in citations over the years, with the highest number recorded in 2022. JILA received more citations than PEARL in all years, reflecting its relatively higher research impact and visibility.

Table 5: Year-wise Citations

Year	JILA	PEARL	Total
2017	150	80	230
2018	175	90	265
2019	190	110	300
2020	210	130	340
2021	230	150	380
2022	250	170	420
Total	1205	730	1935

Table 6 highlights the professional categories of authors contributing to JILA and PEARL journals. Teachers and librarians constitute the largest contributor groups in both journals, followed by research scholars. Contributions from students and faculty members are comparatively lower. This demonstrates that practicing professionals and educators play a major role in LIS research publication.

Figure 3: Year-wise Citations

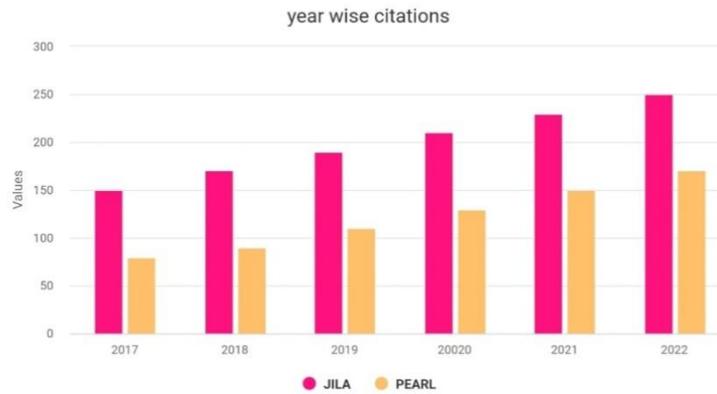


Table 6: Author's Category

Category	JILA	PEARL	Total
Librarian	145	124	269
Student	22	19	41
Faculty	47	51	98
Teacher	119	162	281
Research Scholar	91	104	195
Total	424	460	884

Table 7 depicts the state-wise distribution of articles published in both journals. Karnataka emerges as the leading contributor state, followed by Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, New Delhi, and West Bengal. The wide geographical spread of contributions indicates national-level participation in LIS research, though certain states dominate in terms of publication output.

Table 7: State-wise Contributions

State	JILA	PEARL	Total
Uttar Pradesh	28	25	53
New Delhi	23	16	39
Odisha	9	23	32
Tamil Nadu	13	29	42
Maharashtra	21	36	57
Karnataka	54	51	105
West Bengal	24	14	38
Punjab	23	11	34
Others	31	48	79
Total	226	253	479

Table 8 presents the subject-wise distribution of articles published in JILA and PEARL. Bibliometrics, scientometrics, survey-based studies, library resources, and ICT emerge as prominent research areas. JILA shows a higher number of survey-based and scientometric studies, whereas PEARL emphasizes library resources and automation. This reflects variations in thematic focus between the two journals.

Table 8: Subject-wise Distribution of Articles

Subject	JILA	PEARL
Library Service	12	16
ICT	14	18
Bibliometrics	22	19
Scientometrics	28	7
Trend Analysis	5	9
Library Resources	20	35
Information Seeking Behaviour	6	9
Content Analysis	6	5
Public Library	6	8
Open Access	5	8
Webometrics	5	11
Information Literacy	13	9
Library Automation	9	24
Others	75	75
Total	226	253

9. Findings: This comparative bibliometric analysis reveals the evolving landscape of Library and Information Science (LIS) research within India, as exemplified by the outputs of JILA and PEARL. While both journals represent vital pillars of the field, the study period highlights PEARL's higher publication volume and a clear shift toward collaborative research models. Geographically, the findings underscore a strong regional concentration, with Indian authors—specifically from Karnataka—driving most of the discourse. The prevalence of bibliometric and survey-based methodologies suggests a field focused on quantitative assessment and user-centric data. Ultimately, these trends provide librarians and policymakers with a data-driven roadmap for identifying research gaps and fostering future scholarly growth in the LIS sector.

References

- Ahmad, K., Ming, Z. J., & Rafi, M. (2018). Assessing digital library research output: A bibliometric analysis. *The Electronic Library*, 36(4), 696–704.
- Gupta, B. M., & Subramanyam, K. (2017). Bibliometric indicators and research evaluation. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 64(2), 75–85.
- Halder, S., & Mondal, A. (2022). Journal of the Indian Library Association and IASLIC Bulletin: A comparative bibliometric study. *LIS Links Newsletter*, 8(1), 8-15. <http://newsletter.lislinks.com/>
- Maiti, D. C., & Sahoo, S. (2023). COVID-19 articles: A bibliometric study. *LIS Links Newsletter*, 9(1). <http://newsletter.lislinks.com/>
- Pritchard, A. (1969). Statistical bibliography or bibliometrics? *Journal of Documentation*, 25(4), 348–349.
- Sengupta, I. N. (1992). Bibliometrics, informetrics, scientometrics and librametrics: An overview. *Libri*, 42(2), 75–98.