

## Journal of the Indian Library Association and IASLIC Bulletin: A Comparative Bibliometric Study

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### Abstract

**Purpose:** This paper aims to examine the current trends in publication patterns in library and information science research using the bibliometric method. The main purposes of the study are to examine authorship patterns of contributions, find out the state-wise distribution of contributions, know the most prolific author, identify the length of articles, and determine the subject-wise distribution of the articles from the two peer-reviewed journals in India, i.e., JILA and IASLIC Bulletin.

**Design/methodology/approach:** The data relevant to the research work was downloaded from the websites of ILA (<https://ilaindia.co.in>) and IASLIC (<http://www.iaslic1955.org.in>) during 2015–2019. The quantitative method has been followed to analyse the data and distribute it in different tables and charts.

**Findings:** A total of 37 issues and 206 articles were analysed in various aspects such as distribution of articles, authorship patterns, state-wise contributors, most prolific author(s), length of articles, and subject-wise distribution of articles. All collected data were presented in different tables and charts in a systematic manner. The trends in authorship of articles are collaborative, and most of the authors belong to Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The average length of articles is different in both journals, and most of the papers were written on 'bibliometric analysis', 'e-resources', 'users' study', and 'ICT in library automation'.

**Research Limitation:** The study covered only two very popular national peer-reviewed journals, i.e., 'The Journal of Indian Library Association' (JILA) and IASLIC Bulletin. The study was from 2015 to 2019.

**Practical Implications:** The research areas of this study will help LIS professionals identify the current trends in research.

**Originality/value:** The bibliometric study is a very common research area. But this research work was carried out using two national-level journals, and a comparative bibliometric analysis was done during 2015–2019. The data from both journals has been analysed using different parameters. This research work highlighted the research trends in the LIS domain, and the article will help future researchers and LIS professionals.

**Keywords:** JILA, IASLIC Bulletin, Bibliometric, Research Trends, Library and Information Science

**1. Introduction:** A bibliometric study is the statistical analysis of bibliographic data, commonly focused on the citation analysis of research output and publications. Earlier, bibliometric methods were very frequently used in the field of library and information science. Nowadays, it is trending in every domain. It is used to provide a quantitative analysis of academic literature. Many research fields use bibliometric methods to explore the impact of their field. Bibliometric is basically divided into two words: biblio means "books" and

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metric means "measurement." Now we can define "bibliometric" as a method that includes statistical analysis of published articles and citations therein to measure their impact.

Bibliometrics has been defined as "the quantitative analysis of the characteristics, behaviour and productivity of all aspects of written communication, library staff and information users" (Mahapatra, 2000, p. 4). The word bibliometrics was introduced by Pritchard (1969), which substituted the earlier term "statistical bibliography", which was used for the same concept. Various techniques of bibliometric analysis help to determine special trends in the literature of a given field of study. Bibliometric studies are helpful in evaluating library services, collection development, policy refinement, decision-making, resource allocation, and even weeding.

The current study is a comparative bibliometric analysis during 2015–2019 of the 'Journal of Indian Library Association' (JILA) published by the Indian Library Association (ILA) and the 'IASLIC Bulletin' published by the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC). Both journals are peer-reviewed journals that publish high-quality research articles in the LIS domain. Both journals have a few similarities, i.e., the publication frequency is quarterly, and both are UGC-approved national-level journals in India.

**2. Review of Literature:** Review of Literature: Several bibliometric analyses were conducted in the recent past in national and international journals. Some of the relevant works on the aforesaid subject are discussed here. Thanuskodi (2011) examined the Journal titled Library Herald for the period of 2006 to 2010 and found that out of 138 articles, single authors contributed 72 (52.17%) articles, while the rest, 66 (47.83%) articles, were contributed by joint authors. The study disclosed that most of the contributions were from India, with 89.85 % and the rest, 10.15%, from foreign sources. Singh & Mishra (2013) analysed 158 contributions to the IASLIC Bulletin during 2004–2010. The researcher found that most of the contributions were from academic institutions; a majority of contributions (92) were 6 pages, while the majority of articles (95) had 1 to 10 citations. Total citations were 1600 from 158 articles. Kuri & Hajje (2014) examined the citations cited in The Pearl: a Journal Library and Information Science during 2009–2011. They found 1285 citations in 124 articles. They accounted for 647 (50.35%) articles written by a single author and 288 (22.49) articles written by two authors. Mondal and Saha (2015) evaluated 115 articles from the Journal of Indian Library Association during 2008–2014 and found most of the authors belonged to Delhi, the average length of articles was 4-6 pages, and the maximum number of articles were written on library automation, user studies, and ICT-related topics. Halder (2016) worked with the IASLIC Bulletin and Annals of Library and Information Studies (ALIS) from 2010–2014. The researcher found that 115 articles were published in the IASLIC Bulletin and 179 articles were published in ALIS during the above period. He distributed the research data subject-wise, state-wise, country-wise, and reference-wise. Kuri & Palled (2016) studied and analysed the articles published in the Journal of Indian Library Association (JILA) from 2012 to 2014. He found that most of the articles were published by single authors, and the maximum contributions were from the universities, i.e., 59 out of 119 articles. He also distributed research data in different tables and charts. Parameshwar (2016) analysed 204 articles published between 2006 and 2015 in the IASLIC Bulletin. He found that the highest publication was in 2010 (25 articles). A total of 334 authors contributed during the period, and most of the articles were contributed by single authors [96 (46.08%)], followed by two authors [90 (44.12%)], and the remaining 60 (9.80%) of the articles were written by three authors. The researcher presented the research data in many tables, i.e., state-wise, country-wise, length of articles, found prolific authors with five articles, and also presented highly cited top ten papers. Brahma and Verma (2018) investigated 202 articles published in the Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science (MJLIS) during the

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period 2007–2016 and found most of the contributors, i.e., 31.17%, from Malaysia; the second contributing country was India. They found 6285 references in 202 articles. Most of the articles had joint authors (50.99%). Lijina (2018) analysed the *International Journal of Library and Information Science* for the period 2012–2017 and found 161 articles were published during the period. In 2017, the highest number of articles (54 articles) were published. The author also distributed research data country-wise, state-wise, and authorship pattern-wise. Raja & Malik (2018) did a bibliometric study on the *Journal of Knowledge Management (JKM)* and found 508 articles were contributed from 57 countries during 2009–2016. They also distributed the research data in different tables and graphs. The most significant outcome of their study is that 307 articles were written on knowledge management.

**3. Objectives of the Study:** The main objectives of the study are:

- a) To study the issue-wise distribution of articles;
- b) To examine authorship patterns of contributions;
- c) To find out the state-wise distribution of contributions;
- d) To know the most prolific author;
- e) To identify the length of articles; and
- f) To determine the subject-wise distribution of the articles.

**4. Scope of the Study:** The scope of the present study covers:

- a) A total of 107 articles were published in the 'Journal of Indian Library Association' (JILA).
- b) A total of 99 articles were published in the 'IASLIC Bulletin.'
- c) The span of the study is limited to a 5-year period, i.e., 2015–2019, for both mentioned journals.

**5. Methodology:** The data relevant to the study were downloaded from the websites of ILA (<https://ilaindia.co.in>) and IASLIC (<http://www.iaslic1955.org.in>) from 2015–2019. Apart from that, the relevant data were collected from different sources. A total of 206 articles written by 361 authors were traced from the 37 issues of both journals. The collected data were tabulated, classified, analysed, and compared to meet the above-mentioned objectives.

**6. Data Analysis and Interpretation:** The present research work is a comparative bibliometric study of the *Journal of Indian Library Association (JILA)* and the *IASLIC Bulletin* from the years 2015 to 2019. The research articles published during the period have been analysed and distributed in different tables to fulfil the objectives.

**a) Distribution of Contributions:** Table 1 clearly shows that year-wise percentages of contributions are almost similar, although the highest number of articles were published in JILA. The total contributions in five volumes of JILA were 107, with an average of 21.4% of articles published in a year. The maximum number of articles published in 2019 was 28 (26.16%), and the fewest contributions were found in 2016, i.e., 17 (15.89%).

In the case of the *IASLIC Bulletin*, the total contributions during the same period were 99, with an average of 18.9% of articles in a year. The highest number of contributions was 24 (24.24%), published in 2019. At the same time, the lowest 16 (16.16) articles were published in 2016. The most interesting result was that the highest and lowest articles were published in the same year in both journals. In figure 1, the comparison between both journals is distributed in a bar diagram.

Year	Journal of Indian Library Association							IASLIC Bulletin						
	Vol	Issue				Total	%	Vol	Issue				Total	%
		1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4		
2015	51	4	5	4	6	19	17.76	60	4	5	5	4	18	18.18
2016	52	7	5		5	17	15.89	61	6		5	5	16	16.16
2017	53	6	9		5	20	18.70	62	5	6	5	6	22	22.22
2018	54	6	5	6	6	23	21.49	63	4	5	5	5	19	19.19
2019	55	6	6	8	8	28	26.16	64	5	6	6	7	24	24.24
Total	5	18				107	100	5	19				99	100

Table 1: Distribution of Contributions in JILA and IASLIC Bulletin

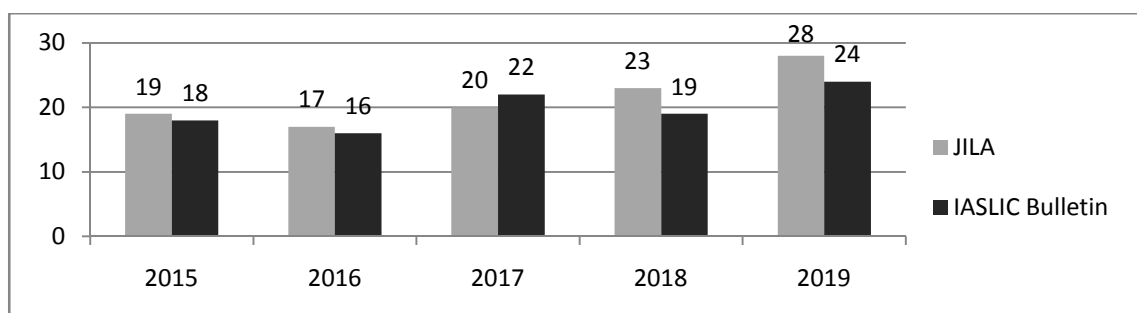


Figure 1: Distribution of Contributions in JILA and IASLIC Bulletin

**b) Authorship Patterns:** In JILA, there were 171 personal authors who contributed 107 articles during five years, and in the IASLIC Bulletin, a total of 190 personal authors contributed 99 articles. Table 2 demonstrates that most of the articles [53 (49.53%)] were written by a single author in JILA, and 51 articles were 47.66% written by joint authors. Only two articles were written by three authors, and one article was written by more than three authors.

But in the case of the IASLIC Bulletin, the picture was just the opposite. Here, most of the articles, i.e., 60 (60.60%), were contributed by joint authors. 24 (24.24%) articles were contributed by a single author, and 15 (15.15%) papers were written by three authors.

No. of Author(s)	JILA		IASLIC Bulletin	
	No.	%	No.	%
One	53	49.53	24	24.24
Two	51	47.66	60	60.60
Three	2	1.86	15	15.15
More than three	1	0.93	0	0
Total	107	100	99	100

Table 2: Authorship Patterns in JILA and IASLIC Bulletin

**c) State-wise Contributions:** Earlier, it was mentioned that two national-level journals were published in two different cities in India. The Journal of the Indian Library Association has been published in New Delhi, and the IASLIC Bulletin has been published in Kolkata. As per Table 3, the most interesting result is that the highest contributing state was Uttar Pradesh in JILA and the fourth highest in the IASLIC Bulletin. Whereas West Bengal was the highest contributing state in the IASLIC Bulletin and the 4th highest in JILA. A total of 25 states and four foreign contributors contributed to both journals. In the case of both journals, West

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Bengal was the highest contributing state with 72 contributors, and the second highest, i.e., 48 contributors, were from Uttar Pradesh. Karnataka was the 3rd highest state with 31 contributors in both journals during 2015–2019.

SL	State	JILA			IASLIC Bulletin		
		No. of Contributors	%	Rank	No. of Contributors	%	Rank
1	Uttar Pradesh	32	18.72	1	16	8.42	4
2	Karnataka	22	12.88	2	9	4.74	6
3	Tamil Nadu	18	10.53	3	1	0.53	21
4	West Bengal	15	8.78	4	57	30.00	1
5	Maharashtra	13	7.60	5	5	2.63	10
6	Mizoram	11	6.43	6	4	2.11	12
7	Delhi	11	6.43	7	18	9.47	3
8	Punjab	9	5.27	8	12	6.32	5
9	Madhya Pradesh	8	4.69	9	-	-	-
10	Jammu and Kashmir	6	3.51	10	8	4.21	8
11	Andhra Pradesh	4	2.34	11	2	1.05	16
12	Kerala	4	2.34	12	5	2.63	9
13	Gujarat	3	1.75	13	2	1.05	17
14	Haryana	3	1.75	14	-	-	-
15	Odisha	3	1.75	15	9	4.74	7
16	Rajasthan	3	1.75	16	-	-	-
17	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.58	17	-	-	-
18	Assam	1	0.58	18	16	8.42	2
19	Chhattisgarh	1	0.58	19	1	0.53	19
20	Nagaland	1	0.58	20	-	-	-
21	Telangana	1	0.58	21	3	1.58	14
22	Manipur	-	-	-	4	2.11	11
23	Puducherry	-	-	-	3	1.58	13
24	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	3	1.58	15
25	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	2	1.05	18
26	Place not mentioned	-	-	-	7	3.68	20
27	Foreign	1	0.58	22	3	1.58	22
Total		171	100		190	100	

Table 3: State-wise Contribution to JILA and IASLIC Bulletin

**d) Rank-wise Contributors:** Table 4 shows the most prolific contributors to JILA came from Dr. Manoj Kumar Verma and Dr. P. G. Tadasad. Both contributed four articles each to JILA during the study period. Mr. Dhiman Mondal was the second-highest contributor with three articles. 160 authors had one or two articles.

Rank	Authors	No. of Articles	%
1	Manoj Kumar Verma	4	2.33
1	P. G. Tadasad	4	2.33
2	Dhiman Mondal	3	1.75
3	152 authors with one or two articles	160	
	Total	171	

Table 4: Most Prolific Contributors in JILA During 2015-2019

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As per Table 5, the most prolific author in the IASLIC Bulletin was Dr. Krishnapada Majumder, with five articles. Dr. Aditya Tripathi, Dr. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, and Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh were the second-highest contributors, with four articles each. Dr. Rupak Chakravarty and Dr. Babita Jaiswal both contributed three papers each during the mentioned period. 167 authors had one or two articles.

Rank	Authors	No. of Articles	%
1	Krishnapada Majumder	5	2.63
2	Aditya Tripathi	4	2.11
2	Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay	4	2.11
2	Sanjay Kumar Singh	4	2.11
3	Rupak Chakravarty	3	1.58
3	Babita Jaiswal	3	1.58
4	135 authors with one or two articles	167	
	Total	190	

**Table 5: Most Prolific Contributors in the IASLIC Bulletin during 2015-2019**

**e) Length of Articles:** Table 6 describes the page length of the published articles in JILA during 2015–2019. Out of 107 articles, the top 43 (40.19%) have a length of between 7-9 pages. The mean page length of 107 articles is 8.700.

Sl. No.	No. of Pages	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total	Percentage %	Mean
1	1-3		1				1	0.93	8.700
2	4-6	4	6	6	8	1	25	23.36	
3	7-9	10	7	6	3	17	43	40.19	
4	10-12	4	1	5	9	8	27	25.23	
5	13-15		2	3	1	2	8	7.48	
6	16-18	1			2		3	2.80	
Total=		19	17	20	23	28	107	100	

**Table 6: Length of Articles in JILA during 2015-2019**

Table 7 represents the page length of published articles in the IASLIC Bulletin during 2015–2019. Here, a maximum of 30 articles (30.30%) were published with 10–12 pages, and the mean page length of 99 articles is 11.545.

Sl. No.	No. of Pages	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total	Percentage %	Mean
1	4-6	1	2	1	3	4	11	11.11	11.545
2	7-9		1	8	3	11	23	23.23	
3	10-12	6	8	7	5	4	30	30.30	
4	13-15	3	5	3	3	2	16	16.16	
5	16-18	6		3	2	2	13	13.13	
6	19-21	2				1	3	3.03	
7	22-24				3		3	3.03	
Total=		18	16	22	19	24	99	100	

**Table 7: Length of Articles in the IASLIC Bulletin during 2015-2019**

**f) Subject-wise Distributions of the Articles:** The articles are categorised by subject and distributed in Table 8. The subjects are selected considering the main 'keyword' of the articles

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published in both journals during the study period. All published articles have been divided into 18 subjects, and most of the articles are written on 'bibliometric and citation analysis', i.e., 17 articles (15.89%) in JILA and 12 articles (12.12%) in IASLIC Bulletin. The next very common subjects are e-resources, user studies, LIS education, ICT, library automation, etc., in both journals.

Sl No	Subjects	JILA		IASLIC Bulletin	
		No.	%	No.	%
1	Bibliometric and citation analysis	17	15.89	12	12.12
2	e-Resources	13	12.15	9	9.09
3	Users study	11	10.28	9	9.09
4	ICT and Library Automation	9	8.41	6	6.06
5	Miscellaneous	9	8.41	9	9.09
6	Librarianship, LIS professionals and LIS education	8	7.48	9	9.09
7	Scientometric study	7	6.54	2	2.02
8	Digital library	5	4.67	4	4.04
9	Knowledge and information management	5	4.67	7	7.07
10	Public library	5	4.67	2	2.02
11	Information sources and services	4	3.74	9	9.09
12	Library management	3	2.80	3	3.03
13	School Library	3	2.80	5	5.05
14	University Library	3	2.80	4	4.04
15	College Libraries	2	1.87	3	3.03
16	Health science library	2	1.87	-	-
17	Webometric study	1	0.93	1	1.01
18	Library classification	-	-	5	5.05
Total=		107	100	99	100

**Table 8: Subject-wise Distribution of Articles Published in JILA and IASLIC Bulletin**

**7. Conclusion:** The present study analysed a total of 206 articles in 37 issues published in JILA and IASLIC Bulletin during 2015–2019. It was observed that 107 articles with 171 contributors contributed to JILA and 190 authors contributed to the IASLIC Bulletin, where the total number of articles was less than JILA, i.e., 99 articles. The maximum number of LIS contributors preferred to contribute as either a single author or put together for publication in the journal. It has also been established that most of the contributors belong to the state where the journal is published. Although 25 states contributed from India, a few foreign contributors also contributed to both journals during the study period. The arithmetic mean of the page length of all published articles is 8.700 in JILA and 11.545 in the IASLIC Bulletin. Moreover, the result of the study highlighted the research trends in the LIS domain, where subjects like "bibliometrics, 'e-resources, ' 'user study', and 'ICT' were the preferred subjects among the authors. The study focused on multimodal bibliometric measures that would be a helpful tool for all stakeholders to know the characteristic features of the journals.

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