

2018

Perceptions of Scholarly Publishing in Open Access Routes: A Survey of LIS Professionals in Odisha

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Majhi, Sabitri; Baral, Sumitra; and Maharana, Bulu, "Perceptions of Scholarly Publishing in Open Access Routes: A Survey of LIS Professionals in Odisha" (2018). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 2117.
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Perceptions of Scholarly Publishing in Open Access Routes: A Survey of LIS Professionals in Odisha

Abstract

The main purpose of this study is to determine the perceptions of open access system among the library professionals, and the factors they consider while selecting open access journals for publication. The both printed and online questionnaire was designed for data collection. A total of 116 LIS (Library and Information Science) professional's responses were collected through both online and offline questionnaire from different academic libraries in Odisha. The study shows that majority of the LIS professionals of different academic institutions of Odisha are aware about open access routes. The results of the study revealed that majority of respondents are aware about open access routes and they have considered open access publication as Scholarly Literature. But majority of authors do not support to pay Article Processing Charges (APC) for getting their research papers published through Open Access journals.

Introduction

In the recent past the academic environment has become more transparent with respect to scholarly communications. All thanks to the emergence of Open Access Model, the comrades of any fraternity are being able to share each other's research interest effectively and efficiently that to within a short span of time. This practice amongst the professionals has taken a leap in the field of social science disciplines as well. The most commonly practised activity to evaluate the result of a research is the publication of the resulting articles in a specialised journal either open access journal or subscription based journal. Open access refers to accessibility of all kinds of resources that are published and can be accessed through the internet free of charge, which include scholarly publications. Open access (OA) in the context of scholarly publishing, is a term widely used to refer to unrestricted on line access to articles published in scholarly journals. It provides a wide range of information to researchers and users. The term open access was introduced by Budapest Open Access Initiative (February 2002), by Bethesda statement on open access publishing (June 2003), by Berlin declaration on open access to knowledge in the sciences and humanities (October 2005). According to Budapest open access initiative, open access meant for "free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other

than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.” Hence it can be said that, open access publishing is most concisely defined as content that presents no barrier to the reader (financial or otherwise) other than access to the internet itself (Budapest Open Access Initiatives 2002).

The concept of Open Access came into the picture in the late 90s when the international academic circle started discussing about it. A wide array of change was witnessed in the way people referred and used relevant documents of their interest. Most OA journals occupy a significant position in the scholarly communication system. In recent years, the number of OA journals has increased

The information explosion has resulted in the production of a wide variety of information resources comprising of print and non-print materials. These resources must be collected and stored in library and information centres for its own designated users. But, the price hike of the journals and limited budget to acquire the reading materials has dissolved libraries' purchasing power fundamentally. Therefore, academic libraries have been forced to cancel subscriptions or shift fund from different ranges of their budgets with a specific end goal to purchase a few number of high priced journal titles. As a result of which the libraries are unable to meet the need of the user's community at academic institutions.

Hence solution to the above crisis lies in the publishing in open access routes. It is very much essential to create awareness about OA publications, so that the pool of OA publication will be increased. This will help end users to access information without any barriers. The investigator has tried to look in to the awareness and perception, towards open access publishing media among LIS communities in Odisha.

Objective of the Study

- 1) To measure the awareness of open access routes among LIS professionals of Odisha.
- 2) To identify relationship of demographic variable (i.e. Age) with perception of respondents towards open access publishing.
- 3) To find out the level of acceptance of open access publication as scholarly literature among the LIS researchers.
- 4) To ascertain the motivating and demotivating factors influencing publication through open access routes.
- 5) To bring out suggestions from the targeted respondents for making prominent changes and promotion of Open access Routes.

- 6) To analyze the perception of LIS professionals of Odisha towards Open Access Journals

Literature Review

Bosah, Okeji and Baro (2017) in the study “Perceptions, preferences of scholarly publishing in Open Access journals: A survey of academic librarians in Africa” identified different factors which affected librarians to choose open access journals for scholarly publishing. The result of this study revealed that most of academic librarians in Africa have published papers in open access journals. Again it was found that Impact factor and reputation of journal are strong factor for choosing a journal for publishing a paper. However, author fee and lack of stable internet connectivity is major barrier for publication in OA Journals. Study made by **Shuva and Taisir (2016)**, with the objective to understand the awareness, perception and use of open access journals among faculty members at Bangladesh found that major factor for demotivation towards open access is its peer review process. At the same time they are attracted towards open access publishing systems as open access provides better opportunities to have more visibility and hence more impact factor. Hence, the faculty members have mixed perception about open access journal. **Odell, Palmer and Dill (2017)** surveyed on Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) faculty attitude and practice regarding scholarly communication and the main objective is to reveal knowledge gaps about key elements of scholarly communication that extend across disciplines at IUPUI, these knowledge gaps were most substantial among the health science respondents. The results reveal that health science respondents were less aware of relevant library-supported services, less interested in supporting changes in the scholarly communication system, and more likely to express uncertainty and a lack of knowledge concerning key issues. However, the health science respondents rated journal impact factors as more important to their publishing choices

Methodology:

To ascertain the procedural methodology of an undertaken project is a vital step. This study covered the practicing library professionals and teachers of library and information science of different academic institutions and universities in Odisha. Primary data are collected through random sampling with both online and offline questionnaire. Online

questionnaire was created by using Google docs and the survey questionnaire is available at theLink

“https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIQ4cm7zwkCVFgapKZrKHGSLCvej804GtVDx8y92rUMvvrXg/viewform?usp=sf_link”. This link was forwarded to respondents working in various academic institutions of Odisha using their e-mail addresses. The respondents were reminded frequently via e-mail to respond the survey. The process of data collection started in December 2017 and closed in February 2018. The data analysis was done using Chi-square test. The data analysis has done by using SPSS and MS excel. Both qualitative and quantitative analysis was used to carry out during this process of survey.

Open Access publishing Routes

Open access (OA) literature is “digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions”. The three possible ways authors can provide open access are:

- (1) **Green Route** (self-archiving articles which are published in closed access journal)
Author can self-archive a version of the article for public access by users in their institutional repository or in a central disciplinary repository (such as E-LIS) or with other open access platform such as academia.edu, research gate etc. These developments have created beautiful opportunities for scholarly communication. Although, the self-archiving facilities are available for authors, many people in academia do not self-archive their published documents in the IRs
- (2) **Gold Route** (publishing in an open access journal): With gold open access, authors used to publish in open access journals as a result of which an immediate access to all the articles is possible generally on the publisher’s website. (Suber, 2006). However, OA journals charge an article processing fee on accepted articles, from the authors or the author's sponsor (funding agency, employer) (Suber, 2006). This article processing fee may be the main hindrance towards the success of open access publishing.
- (3) **Diamond Route:** This route of open access publishing is very suitable both for authors and readers as it is free to read for readers and is free to publish for authors in Peer-reviewed journals. (Gowers, 2016). Studies have found that “APC charges, lack of journal prestige, and loss of author copyright control remain barriers to OA success” (Anderson, 2004). Since diamond route of publishing is able to overcome all the barriers for success of open access much more awareness must be created towards this route of OA publishing.

Traditional, commercial publishing system has its limitations, as articles are not accessible to the majority of researchers in developing countries. Open access publishing provide online access to articles free of charge, and hence breaks this barrier and allows unrestricted access to scholarly information to researchers all over the globe.

Okoye and Ejikeme (2010) recognized the benefits of using open access journals as follows: “it provides increased citation to published scholarly work; publications are made free for authors; it increases the impact of researchers’ work; articles can be accessed online free of charge; it provides free online access to the literature necessary for one’s research; it helps in career development; and it provides high quality scholarly work. Removing access barriers will accelerate research, enrich education, and share learning.” Thus, it is essential to put research results available to as many academics as possible for free of charged. In this connection it is essential to study the perception of LIS authors towards the open access publishing system.

Result and Discussion

A tabulated interpretation of the collected data are structured and analyzed in this chapter, pertaining to perception and preferences in scholarly publishing in open access routes among practising library professionals and teachers of library and information science of different academic institutions and universities in Odisha. The researcher has opted to collect data through questionnaire method as this particular survey technique was found suitable, keeping the various objectives formulated for the current study in mind. The information thus collected are based on the personal experiences and perspectives of the targeted respondents towards scholarly publishing in open access routes.

Demographic Variables of the Respondents

The respondents of the study belong to both practicing library professionals and teachers of library and information science school of different institutions and universities in Odisha. In this section the Demographic Variables Gender and Age are taken for the study.

Distribution of Respondents based on Age

Age is one of the important variables used in this survey related to attitude and behaviour towards scholarly publishing in open access routes. Respondents for the current study consist of different age groups, such as between 21 to 30 years, 31 to 40 years and 41 & above years. Age wise distribution of the respondents is given in table-1

Table-1: Distribution of Respondents based on Age

S. No.	Age	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	21-30	64	55.17
2	31-40	29	25
3	41 &Above	23	19.83
Total (%)		116	100.0

On the whole the majority of the respondents belong to the age group between 21 to 30 years.

Awareness towards Open Access Publishing Routes

Open access aims to maximize the visibility of research, much of which is publicly funded. Open access differs from free online access as it provides reuse rights provided full attribution is given while authors retain copyright to their work. There are three possible routes through which the author can provide open access literature to the end users. In this section awareness towards Open Access Publishing Routes is summarized in table-2.

Association between age and awareness towards Open Access Publishing Routes

The association between age and level of awareness towards open access resources are further examined using the chi-square analysis. The details of chi-square analysis are presented in table-2

Variable	Category	Open Access Publishing Routes					Total (%)	Test Statistics and P value
		Green Route (%)	Gold Route (%)	Gold Route and Green Route (%)	Gold Route, Green Route and Diamond Route (%)	No Idea (%)		
Age	21-30	25 (39.06)	5 (7.81)	11 (17.19)	11(17.19)	12 (18.75)	64 (55.17)	$\chi^2=28.887^*$

	31-40	3 (10.34)	8 (24.14)	10 (34.48)	7 (24.14)	1 (3.45)	29 (25)	(Df = 8) p= 0.000 CC= 0.447
	41 & Above	1 (4.35)	4 (17.39)	9 (17.39)	8 (34.78)	1(4.35)	23 (19.83)	
Total (%)		29 (25)	17 (14.65)	30 (25.86)	26 (22.41)	14 (12.07)	116 (100)	

Source: Primary Data

* Significant at 0.05 level

Table – 2 Association between age and awareness towards Open Access Publishing Routes

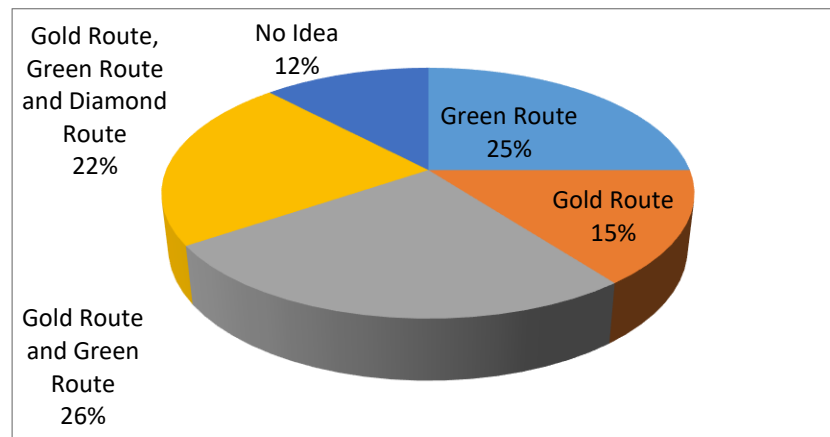


Figure-1 Awareness towards Open Access Publishing Routes

Awareness towards various routes of open access publishing is shown in the above table - 2. As mentioned in the above table, the calculated value of χ^2 is 28.887 at 8 degree of freedom with p value 0.000, which is significant at 0.05 level ($\chi^2 = 28.887$; $p > 0.05$). Therefore the null hypothesis, “There is no significant association between age and awareness towards open access routes” is rejected at 0.05 levels. Thus there is a significant association between age and awareness towards open access routes (CC= 0.447). Young people are having better awareness towards open access routes in comparison to other LIS professionals. Again it is evident from the table that majority (39.06%) of LIS professionals are aware about Green route of OA. Awareness towards other routes of open access publishing is not very significant.

Consideration of the Open Access Publication as Scholarly Literature

The new model of publishing i.e. OA publishing model has been getting more popularity among the authors. Most of the OA journals are launched by universities, societies and individuals. Commercial publishers are also started to adopt this new model of publishing. In order to find consideration of respondents to open access publication as scholarly literature is summarized in the table-3

	Consider Open Access Publication as Scholarly Literature		Total
	Yes (%)	No (%)	
Number and % of respondents	101 (87.1)	15 (12.9)	116 (100)

Table-3: Consider Open Access Publication as Scholarly Literature

On the whole, we find that majority of the respondents (87.1 percent) from total number of respondents have considered the open access publications as scholarly literature.

Support of authors towards Article Processing Fee (APC)

The new model of OA publishing author pay model need payment of APC by author, which is very difficult for individual authors if institutional support is not available. This feature of the OA publishing model is demotivating the authors. It is a burden for the author who writes a paper after so much of hard work and then has to pay high amount towards APC. In the present study the respondents were asked to indicate whether they prefer to pay APC for publishing a paper in OA. Again a graphical representation of the tabled data is also provided in the table-4

Support of authors towards Article Processing Fee (APC)			Total
Support	Do not Support	No idea	
19 (16%)	76 (65.5%)	21 (18%)	116

Table - 4: Support of authors towards Article Processing Fee (APC)

As reflected in the table majority (65.5%) of the respondents do not support in paying Article Processing Fee (APC) for publishing a paper in open access journal, whereas only 16% respondents do support for paying APC.

Motivating Factors for publishing in Open Access.

Accessibility of open access resources has enhanced the academic excellence of the LIS community. There are many such factors which might motivate the research community to publish papers in open access. Some important and relevant factors have been listed and asked respondents to make a choice from those factors. Table-5 shows them in details.

S. No.	Motivating Factors for publishing in Open Access	No. of Response	Percentage
1	Wider Circulation	90	77.96
2	Highly Cited	58	50
3	Faster Publication	36	31.03
4	Copyright Retention	24	20.69
5	Not Any	6	5.17
Total		214	

Table - 5: Motivating Factors for publishing in Open Access Multi-response item

Table – 5 shows that the majority of respondents i.e. 77.96 percent of respondents (90 out of 116) are motivated to publish their papers in open access as open access offer wider circulations of research than closed journals, followed by, next majority (50%) of respondents are motivated to publish at open access because open access resources are cited more heavily than closed resources. OA resources have faster publication time frame and in minimum cases copyright retain with the author even after publication of the work. 31.03 % of respondents motivated because of faster publication time frame and 20.69% are motivated because of copyright retention.

Thus it is interpreted that open access offer wider circulations of research than closed journals which motivate the majority of respondents to publish the paper in open access route.

Factor of de-motivation to publish at Open Access

There are some factors which demotivate to publish at open access such as APC, poor peer-review procedures, no institutional fund support etc. APC charge to publish at OA is too high to pay and at the same time many academic institutions don't provide any fund support to pay APC in order to publish a paper or any other research work.

S. No.	Factor of de-motivation to publish at Open Access	No. of Response	Percentage
1	To pay publication fee	60	51.72
2	Poor peer-review procedures	27	23.27
3	No institutional fund support	23	19.83
4	Not Familiar enough with OAJs	14	12.07
5	To have low impact	8	6.89
6	No enduring value	9	7.76
7	No Idea	20	17.24
Total		161	

Table - 6: Factor of de-motivation to publish at Open Access

Multi-response item

Data presented in the table shows that 51.72 percent of respondents (60 out of 116) are de-motivated to publish in open access as they are not in favor of giving APC to publish their paper, Next majority goes to 23.27% of respondents who are demotivated for poor peer-review procedures in OAJs. 19.83% respondents are demotivated due to their institution is not paying to publish in OAJs, 12.07% are not familiar enough with open access publishing system in their field, 6.89 % are demotivated because they perceive the OAJs have low impact in their field, 7.76% because open access has no enduring value and 17.24 % have no idea about it.

Perception of LIS authors towards Open access Journals

In order to find the reasons for liking or disliking open access journal, statement related to persons' feeling and perception towards it has been included in the questionnaire. The various statements in this section related to open access help in understanding the perception about open access journals. The responses to these statements are recorded in Likert scale with "Fully Agree" to "Disagree".

S. No.	Statements towards Open access Journals	Fully Agree	Agree	Disagree	Total
1	Publications in OAJs are as good in quality as closed access Journals	37 (31.90)	67 (57.76)	12 (10.34)	116 (100)
2	OAJs should play a substantial role in the future scholarly communication	62 (53.45)	53 (45.69)	1 (0.86)	116 (100)
3	Authors should prefer closed access Journals to publish their well written good quality manuscripts	14 (12.07)	44 (37.93)	58 (50)	116 (100)

Table - 7: Perception towards Open access Journals

S1: Publications in OAJs are as good in quality as closed access Journals

For the statement “Publications in OAJs are as good in quality as closed access Journals”, 57.76% of respondents are agreeing, 31.90% of respondents indicated fully agree and 10.34% of respondents indicated disagree. Thus the majority of the respondents are having positive perception towards quality of open access Journals and the role of OAJs in the future scholarly communication.

Although LIS researchers are having positive perception towards quality of open access Journals and the role of OAJs in the future scholarly communication. They are having very less number of publications in open access journals in comparison to closed access journals (table-). Hence APC may be the main hindrance for the LIS researchers for publishing in OAJs.

S2: OAJs should play a substantial role in the future scholarly communication

For the statement “OAJs should play a substantial role in the future scholarly communication”, 53.45 percent of respondents indicated fully agree, 45.69 percent of respondents indicated agree and 0.86 percent of respondents indicated disagree. Thus the majority of the respondents (53.45 percent) fully agree in this statement.

With the statement, which clarifies that the majority of respondents having the perception that OAJs should play a substantial role in the future scholarly communication

S3: Authors should prefer closed access Journals to publish their well written good quality manuscripts

For the statement “Authors should prefer closed access Journals to publish their well written good quality manuscripts”, 50 percent of respondents indicated disagree, 37.93 percent of respondents indicated agree and 12.07 percent of respondents indicated fully agree. Thus the majority of the respondents (50 perception) disagree in this statement.

As reflected here in the study 50% respondents consider visibility, prestige, and speed of publication for choosing a Journal to publish their good quality manuscripts rather than preferring closed access Journals.

However another 50% respondents want to publish their well written good quality manuscripts in closed access journals. Article processing fee may be the main hindrance to think about publishing in open access journals.

Suggestion to change in open access publishing system to attract quality submissions

The open access system drastically change the way of scholarly communication and make easy availability of content. There are some suggestions which should be done to attract quality submission in open access are presented in the table-8

S. No.	Suggestion for quality submissions in OA	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Enhance peer review system	79	68.10
2	No APC charges from author	56	48.27
3	Index in widely accepted databases	78	67.24
4	Protection of copyright and IPR	68	58.62
5	Enduring lifelong availability	51	43.97
6	No idea	3	2.59
Total		336	

Table-8: Suggestion to change in open access publishing system to attract quality submissions

Multi-response item

Majority of respondents (i.e. 68.10 % and 67.24%) have suggested to enhance peer review system (68.10%) and to index the open access information sources in the widely accepted databases (67.24%) in order to attract quality submissions to the open access publication. Next majority (58.62 percent) of respondents have suggested protection of copyright and IPR for quality submission, 48.27 percent respondents have suggested that APC charges must not be charged from authors in open access publishing. 2.59 % have no idea about it.

Suggestion to promote open access system

In this recent era the role of open access is very important in scholarly communication which will be beneficial for both the authors and readers. Although open access publishing is having lots of benefits for scholarly communication, LIS author's contribution to open access is not significant. Hence a question has been asked to LIS authors, to find what they will suggest to promote open access system so that contribution to open access system will be enhanced. The collected data has been presented in the following table – 9.

S. No.	Suggestion to promote open access system	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	To increase awareness regarding OA	97	83.62
2	To motivate authors to publish in OA	170	68.10
3	Due credit to OA content	45	38.79
4	Research funding agencies should pay for APC charges	54	46.55
5	Govt. should encourage OA through mandate	73	62.93
6	Publisher should come forward to publish OA content	74	63.79
Total		513	

Table - 9: Suggestion to promote open access system

Multi-response item

This table shows that to promote open access system majority (83.62%) of respondents have suggested to increase awareness regarding OA, followed by the next majority (68.10 %) of respondents have suggested to motivate authors to publish in OA,

38.79 % of respondents have suggested to give due credit to OA content, 46.55 % of respondents have suggested to research funding agencies should pay for APC charges, 62.93 % of respondents have suggested that Govt. should encourage OA through mandate to increase awareness regarding OA and 63.79 % of respondents have suggested publisher should come forward to publish OA content.

Thus the majority of respondents are suggested that the increase awareness regarding OA is the major point to promote open access system.

Findings of the study

Based on the analysis of collected data the following findings are made

- 1) LIS professionals of different academic Institutions of Odisha are aware about Open access publishing Routes.
- 2) There is an association between the age of professionals and awareness towards open access routes ($\chi^2 = 28.887$ at 8 degree of freedom with p value 0.000; CC= 0.447). It is found that majority of young professionals (age group- 21-30) having better awareness towards open access routes in comparison to other people.
- 3) LIS professionals (87.1 percent) have considered open access publication as Scholarly Literature. Again it is found that 100% professionals from age group- 41 & above have considered open access publication as Scholarly Literature.
- 4) Majority of authors do not support to pay Article Processing Charges (APC) for getting their research papers published through Open Access Routes. Again it is found that majority of professionals those are not in support for APC belongs to age group 41 & above.
- 5) Open access offer wider circulations of research than closed journals which motivate the majority of respondents (77.96 percent) to publish the paper in open access route. Next majority (50 percent) are motivated to publish in open Access because these are cited more heavily than closed resources, followed by next majority are attracted to publish because of faster publication timeframe and copyright retention.
- 6) It is found that publication fee or APC charge is the major cause which de-motivates the author to publish their paper in OA. Next majority (23.27 percent) of respondents are de-motivated to publish paper in open access due to poor peer-review procedures, followed by 19.83 percent are demotivated due to no institutional fund support. Again 12.07 % respondents are not familiar enough with Open access journals.

- 7) It is found that majority of the respondents select a journal to publish the paper on the basis of *relevance of journal to their article and journal impact factor* (53.44 percent and 50 percent). Next majority (that 37.93 percent) of respondents looks for prestige of journal followed by 32.76 percentage of respondents looks for peer review system. However 31.90 percent of respondents choose free/open access journals; 27.59 percent of respondents choose most widely read Journal and 13.79 percentage of respondent's choosing journal having features for ease of submission.
- 8) It is found that majority of the respondents (57.76 %) having the perception as open access journal are as qualitative as the closed access journals.
- 9) It is found that majority of the respondents (53.45%) having the perception that OAJs should play a substantial role in the future scholarly communication.
- 10) It is found that majority of the respondents never choose the journals based on their closeness or openness to publish, their criteria mainly based on written qualities papers script, rather a journal having good impact factor.
- 11) It is found that the highest percent of respondents (68.10% and 67.24%) have suggested that the *enhancement of peer review system and indexing of open access journal in widely accepted database* must be done to attract quality submissions. Next majority (58.62 percent) of respondents have suggested for *Protection of Copyright and IPR*, followed by 48.27 percent respondents suggest for no *APC charges from author*.
- 12) Further, the respondents (83.62%) have suggested that *increase of awareness regarding OA* is the major point to promote open access system. Next majority (68.10 percent) of respondents have suggested to motivate authors to publish in OA; 63.79 percent of respondents have suggested that the publishers should come forward to publish OA content; 62.93 percent of respondents have suggested that Govt. should encourage OA through mandate to increase awareness regarding OA; 46.55 percent of respondents have suggested that the research funding agencies should pay for APC charges and 38.79 percent of respondents have suggested to give due credit to OA content.

Conclusion

Awareness of open access scholarly publishing is inevitable in open access decade. Many educational resources are freely available in the web on various open access platform. It provides more benefits to the academic community such as students, research scholars, faculties and professionals for quality education initiatives to the younger

generation and projecting their creativity in teaching, learning and generation of new knowledge and findings. The present study concludes that majority of the LIS professionals of different academic institutions of Odisha are aware about open access routes. More awareness must be needed among the LIS professionals in Odisha for the increment of scholarly publication in open access routes. One of the major finding in this study is that majority of respondents are only aware about open access routes and much of them are not published any scholarly output in open access. The benefits of open access include lower cost, great accessibility and better prospects for long term preservation of scholarly works. The academic community in particular and the whole society in general benefits from open access. Hence, the findings of the study would of great use to the LIS fraternity, Academicians, and the Policy makers.

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