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## An Analytical Study of Library & Information Sciences Journals Published in Pakistan

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# **An Analytical Study of Library & Information Sciences Journals Published in Pakistan**

*Abid Hussain<sup>1</sup> & Dr. Saeed Ullah Jan<sup>2</sup>*

## **Abstract:**

*This descriptive study was conducted in Pakistan in February 2021. The main objective was to identify and discuss the various aspects of the research journals of Library & Information Sciences (LIS) published from Pakistan till date. Documentary analysis was made for acquiring the basic and desired information about these journals. The scrutiny of the available record revealed that seven LIS journals are being published in Pakistan. Out of seven, three were Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized. Two LIS journals are charging publication fee from authors. Five journals were started publishing in last decade by LIS schools or organizations working for LIS professionals in Pakistan. Amazing is to note that none of the Journals has Impact Factor and the oldest journal Pakistan Library Information Science Journal (PLISJ) has been de recognized after journey of 52 years. The LIS community of Pakistan needs to improve the quality of research journals to meet the international standards in the field of Library & Information Studies.*

**Keywords:** *Library & Information Science- Research, Research-LIS- Pakistan, Research Journal-Pakistan, LIS-Pakistan*

## **Introduction:**

Pakistan being a developing country of the world is striving for the betterment in the all filed of the knowledge. Library and Information Science falls under the umbrella of social sciences which worked for solutions of social issues and works for the enhancement of quality of library services in Pakistan that will ultimately result into the better life standards of society. Research plays a pivotal role in the development of the society.

The LIS is serving as an informal educational source for the society. Currently seven research journals are published by different organizations in Pakistan. Four among seven Journals are published by schools of Library and Information Studies, having patronage from

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Lahore, Peshawar, Islamabad, and Karak Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan while rest of three are published by individual organizations.

Research Journals are the most important channels for the dissemination of research outputs in any field of study. These are indispensable for academics and practitioners who are active in conducting research.

Higher Education Commission (2021) is officially authorized body for higher education in Pakistan set standers for journals and recognized the resrech journals in four different categories, i.e. Z, Y, X and W. The initial category of a resrech journal is “Z” and the highest is “W” which includes the all Impact Factor (IF) journals as recognized.

HEC has currently changed its reorganization system form manual to computer based online system known as “HEC Journal Recognition System (HRJS)” <https://hjrs.hec.gov.pk/>. This system enlisted the research journal from the globe which comes under any 14 parameter set by the HEC such is Impact Factor, H-Index etc.

The current study in an attempt to analyze the research journals published from Pakistan, in the subject of library and information science. The research journals are an essential part of understanding the research trends in library and information science in Pakistan. On the basis of conducted review of relevant literature no such kind of research paper has been published by the LIS scholar community which addressed this significant area of resrech in Pakistan.

### **Objectives:**

The main objective of this descriptive study was to present a comprehensive, updated, and latest scrutiny of the research journals published form Pakistan with a brief description of each journal of LIS till date.

### **Review of the Relevant Literature:**

The review of the literature is an integral part of the research process. The authors have conducted a comprehensive review of the literature for this study. Latest and relevant Printed and online resources from Library and Information Science research journals published from Pakistan and abroad have been consulted.

Siddique, N., Rehman, U, S., and Altaf, A. (2020) reviewed the Library and Information Science research in Pakistan from 1957 to 2018. They studied the literature of sixty-two years by applying bibliometrics analysis. The data obtained from the leading databases include; SCOPUS, Web of Science (WOS), Library, Information Science and Technology Abstract

(LISTA), and Library and Information Science Abstract (LISA). The analysis shows a positive tendency for the rise of LIS in Pakistan. They recommended more focus on research and funds for the researcher of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan, Pakistan.

A quarterly newsletter "The Librarian" is published by PLWO (Pakistan Librarians Welfare Organization) since 2014. It's published the news of the LIS profession and upcoming events. The newsletter is accessible online; [https://www.plwo.org.pk/publications\\_cat/plwo-newsletter/](https://www.plwo.org.pk/publications_cat/plwo-newsletter/) (PLWO, 2021). A Magazine in Urdu Language was also published with the name of Sada-E-Librarian (Voice of Librarian), from Pakistan. Moreover, Conference proceedings, Thesis at Master, & Postgraduate level, research articles in journals at the local and international level form the Pakistan LIS community. A significant increase in LIS research journals has been noted in Pakistan.

Warraic, N.F., and Ahmad, S. (2016) Examined the “*Pakistan Journal of Library and Information Science (PJLIS)*” from 1995 to 2010. A total of eleven issues of the research journal of LIS were analyzed using bibliometric attributes. The authors studied author productivity, the extent of Authors, the geographical and intuitional affiliation of contributors, and citation pattern of the research article published in the PJLIS. The results revealed that a total of 111 papers published during the selected period. The majority of the article was single authors; the maximum contributed author was from University of Karachi, Pakistan. About fifty-one papers have up-to 20 references, and authors from twelve countries contribute to this prestigious research journal.

Hussain, & Jan (2021) presented the statistics about the recognition level of Higher Education Commission (HEC) Recognized Research Journals. The analysis revealed that 33.33 % was HEC recognized while 66.67 % of research journals were impact factors subscribed by university libraries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Edewor, N (2013) evaluated the Nigerian Journal of Library and Information Science. This study aimed to assess its performance include; importance index, influence weight, and popularity index. The journal understudy is the preferred source of citation for LIS research, and information technology (IT) was the top subject among researchers, and the International contribution is absent. The author recommended that the understudy journal should take bold steps to publish that journal online to increase their global visibility.

Now HEC had changed the categories of recognized research journals from four to three different categories Y, X and W. The new journal initial categorized as “Y” while the highest category is “W” that includes the Impact Factor research journals only as recognized journal in Pakistan.

Muhammad Yousuf Ali in 2019 stated that only five research journals are currently publishing pure library and information sciences research. The author claimed that only two LIS department of Punjab University Lahore and Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad are publishing the journals of this imported field from Pakistan. Among all five only two are recognized by the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan (Ali, M.U., 2019).

### **Methodology:**

The study in hand was conducted in the month of July, 2021. The primary data about the all research journals was sought from the print and online versions of the journals. Initially a brief review of the published literature was conducted for the purpose to avoid duplication. The website of Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad-Pakistan, their respective universities and organizations were used as a source of acquiring basic information.

The Library records and senior professionals/ academicians/ LIS researchers were also consulted for getting the preliminary information about the journals. The study was delimited to the LIS journals published in Pakistan. The primary data were collected and noted in Microsoft Word files for further examination, analysis and interpretation of descriptive attributes.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

*Table No 1 Summary of LIS Journals Published from Pakistan*

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Title of Journal</b>	<b>Editor Name</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Website URL</b>
1	Pakistan Library & Information Science Journal (PLISJ)	Dr. Ghaniul Akram Sabzwari	Quarterly	Library Promotion Bureau (LPB) Karachi Pakistan	No Online Version
2	Pakistan Journal of Information Management and Libraries (PJIM&L)	Dr. Khalid Mahmood	Annual	Department of Information Management, University of Punjab, Pakistan	<a href="http://journals.pu.edu.pk/journals/index.php/pjiml/index">http://journals.pu.edu.pk/journals/index.php/pjiml/index</a>
3	The International Journal of Librarianship & Information Science (IJoLIS)	Dr. Pervaiz Ahmad	Annual	DLIS, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Pakistan	<a href="https://ijolis.aiou.edu.pk">https://ijolis.aiou.edu.pk</a>
4	International Journal of Information Management Science (IJLMS)	Dr. Muhammad Tariq	Annual	Pakistan Librarian Welfare Organization (PLWO), Pakistan	<a href="http://ijims.org/">http://ijims.org/</a>
5	Journal of Information Management and Library Studies (JIMLS)	Dr. Saeed Ullah Jan	Annual	DLIS, Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, Pakistan	<a href="https://jimls.kkkuk.edu.pk/jimls/index.php/jimls">https://jimls.kkkuk.edu.pk/jimls/index.php/jimls</a>

6	Pakistan Library Association Journal-Online (PLA Journal)	Dr. Haroon Idrees	Annual	Pakistan Library Association (PLA), Pakistan	<a href="http://pla.org.pk">http://pla.org.pk</a> OR <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/plaorg/">https://sites.google.com/view/plaorg/</a>
7	International Journal of Library and Information Science (IJLIS)	Dr. Asad Khan	Bi-annual	DLIS, University of Peshawar, Pakistan	<a href="http://journals.uop.edu.pk/journal_detail.php?journal_id=15#">http://journals.uop.edu.pk/journal_detail.php?journal_id=15#</a>

From the analysis of the available data, it was observed that there are a total of seven research LIS journals in Pakistan. Out of the total, three journals are HEC (Higher Education Commission) recognized whereas the rest are in the processing of recognition. The Pakistan Library and Information Science (PLISJ), Published by Library Promotion Bureau (Bureau) from Karachi, since 1968 is reported as the oldest library and information sciences research journal in Pakistan whereas Journal of Information Management and Library Studies (JIMLS) published by Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS), Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, started in the year 2018, is the latest scholarly LIS journal in the country.

Table No 2. Reorganization, Charges, Language and Latest Issues of LIS Journals

S.No	Title	HEC Recognized	Print ISSN	Online ISSN	Publication Charges	Current Issue	Language
1	PLISJ	No*	0030-9956	---	Yes	52 (3), 2021	English, Urdu
2	PJIM&L	X	2409-7462	2309-9569	Yes	22 (1), 2020	English
3	IJoLIS	Y	2520-6222	2522-3143	No	5 (1), 2020	English
4	IJLMS	No	2225-9163	2312-2668	No	4 (1), 2020	English
5	JIMLS	Y	2708-6089	---	No	3 (1), 2020	English
6	PLA Journal	No	No Print	2313-8858	No	2015	English
7	IJLIS	No	No ISSN	---	No	No Issue	English

\*After HRJS lurching by Higher Education Commission, This Journal was de-recognized.

The brief description of each LIS journal published form Pakistan is given as below.

### 1. Pakistan Library & Information Science Journal (PLISJ)

Pakistan Library & Information Science Journal (PLISJ) ISSN 0030 9956, published by Library Promotion Bureau (LPB) Karachi Pakistan since 1968. Formerly the journal was known as Pakistan Library Bulletin (PLB), ISSN 00309966, and published quarterly i.e. 4 issue in a year on regular basis.

The PLISJ was an HEC recognized research journal placed at “Y” category, but after HEC Policy 2020, it is not listed HEC Journal Recognition System (HJRS). The Journal is accepting articles written in Urdu and English languages. The PLISJ is indexed in EBSCO host and Google Scholar. The Journal is only published in printed format and no online version of the PLISJ is available.

## **2. Pakistan Journal of Information Management and Libraries (PJIM&L)**

The Pakistan Journal of Information Management and Libraries abbreviated as PJIM&L, with ISSN Online 2409-7462, formerly known as Pakistan Journal of Library and Information Science (PJLIS); ISSN Print 1680-4465; Online 2309-9569, published from the Department of Information Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore has an annual frequency.

This is an open access, peer reviewed, and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan recognized journal with approved “Y” Category. The focus and scope of PJIM&L is a double-blind refereed scholarly approach. It is committed to publish original research articles, scholarly critiques and conceptual contributions to the areas of Information Management, Information Science and Librarianship.

The ideas and views expressed in papers published in the PJIM&L is the sole responsibility of authors. It does not necessarily reflect opinion/policy of the Department or Editorial Advisory Board. After plagiarism check with *Turnitin* and a preliminary editorial review, articles are sent to referees for double blind review. Authors are informed about comments of the referees for revising the article accordingly, if required.

The review process may take two to three months. This journal provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. This journal utilizes the LOCKSS system to create a distributed archiving system among participating libraries and permits those libraries to create permanent archives of the journal for purposes of preservation and restoration.

The PJIM&L is abstracted and indexed in the leading databases includes; SCOPUS, Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA), ProQuest, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), E-prints in Library and Information Science (E-LIS), International Bibliography of Book Reviews of Scholarly, Literature in the Humanities and Social Sciences (IBR), International Bibliography of Periodical Literature in the Humanities and Social Sciences (IBZ).

## **3. International Journal of Librarianship and Information Science (IJoLIS)**

The International Journal of Librarianship and Information Science (IJoLIS), ISSN: 2520-6222 (print), 2522-3143 (Online) is a double, blind peer-reviewed journal accepting research papers internationally since 2016. The journal is recognized by Higher Education Commission

(HEC), Pakistan & placed in its “Y” Category. IJoLIS is managed and published by the Department of Library and Information Sciences, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Islamabad, Pakistan.

The IJoLIS is published on annual basis in both print and online formats. Policy says that once the journal gets momentum and popularity in its circle it may go for bi-annually or quarterly circulation. The IJoLIS is indexed/abstracted in the EBSCO, Google Scholar, Ulrich’s Periodical Directory, Forum (Open Access Journals), IP (Intellectual Property) Indexing, Library of Congress, Road, France (Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources), and WorldCat.

#### ***4. International Journal of Information Management Science (IJLMS)***

The International Journal of Information Management Science (IJIMS); ISSN: 2225-9163 (Print), is multidisciplinary in scope and interdisciplinary in content and methodology. The IJIMS is published by Pakistan Librarian Welfare Organization (PLWO). It has a very broad canvas. It covers almost every single dimension relating to Library & Information management sciences. IJIMS publishes articles that are; based on quantitative or qualitative empirical work, conceptual, theory-driven, literature reviews, and case studies. A high-quality Blind Peer Review ensures its quality and original contributions in the field of library sciences.

The IJIMS published at least one issue each year. Articles are published online when ready for publication followed by print version at the end-of-year. Same practice is carried out since 2017. Additional issues are supposed to be published for special events (e.g., conferences, workshops etc) addressing designated themes. There is a strict Peer Review Policy to ensure the quality and authenticity of articles. All received papers are passed through Peer Review processes. To save precious time for authors and peer-reviewers, all any of the editorial board members critically reads submitted articles. After initial scrutiny by the editorial board members, the papers are sent to peer-reviewers for the final decision. In the light of reviewers’ recommendations, the decision is taken place whatever is recommended by the reviewers.

This is an open-access peer-reviewed journal. It allows readers to utilize all contents without any charges. This open access policy not only enhances the readership but also supports the knowledge economy. The IJIMS is indexed in the Scientific Indexing Services, Academic



Resource Index, CiteFactor, Director of Research Journal Indexing (DRJI), International Journal Impact Factor (*IJIFactor*), Index Copernicus (*ICI Journals Master List*), and Google Scholar.

### **5. *Journal of Information Management and Library Studies (JIMLS)***

The Journal of Information Management and Library Studies abbreviated as JIMLS; ISSN: 2708-6089, is an annual refereed open access publication of Department of Library and Information Sciences, Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. JIMLS is published online using Journal Management System and print format as well. It focuses to target library practitioners, information managers, academicians, and researchers.

The journal aims to publish the most modern-day research papers on library management, emerging LIS issues, innovations, developments and latest research. The journal is more specific to publish research articles, reports, and case studies on information and library management, information and digital literacy, library anxiety, big data analytics, collection development and management, LIS research and other relevant topics.

The JIMLS publishes only original research works that are not published elsewhere with any publishing agency/avenue/organization. All the submitted research papers follow the ethics and policy of the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and Journal.

### **6. *Pakistan Library Association Journal – Online (PLA Journal)***

Pakistan Library Association is the representative national body of the Librarians in Pakistan. The PLA was formed in Karachi in March 1957. Prior to the formation of PLA, there was Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group (PBWG) working for the promotion of library activities. According to Dr. Anis Khurshid " it was PBWG which in its meeting held on July 6, 1954, constituted an adhoc committee to form a "National Association for Librarians".

The PLA is responsible to look after the interest of the professional librarians and to work for the development and improvement of libraries both in formal and informal sectors of education and research. PLA Journal has published its research journal titled as Pakistan Library Association Journal (PLA Journal) in print form sine 1957 on annual basis.

The PLA Journal was shifted to online mode in 2013 and its first issue was published online under title: Pakistan Library Association Journal (Online), ISSN 2313-8858, in 2013 by the PLA headquarter from Punjab and available on PLA official website. After the shifting of headquarter to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), they published two issues (2014 and 2015) of PLA Journal. No

issue since then has been published from the PLA. The journal was open access and available free online worldwide. Currently PLA headquarter is at Quetta, Baluchistan Pakistan.

### ***7. International Journal of Library and Information Science (IJLIS)***

The International Journal of Library and Information Science (IJLIS) published from November, 2016, by the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Peshawar, Pakistan. As per information posted on University website, it is a peer-reviewed bi-annual journal for librarians, information scientists, specialists, managers and educators interested in keeping up to date with the most recent issues and developments in the field.

The objectives of IJLIS is to promote exchange of information and knowledge in research work, new developments in librarianship, information and knowledge management and on utilization of Information Technology towards shaping of an information-rich society. The research trajectories comprise but not limited to library science, technologies, communications and networking, information systems management, information management, records management, library management and knowledge management through scholarly publications. The IJLIS also welcome research contributions on the themes of information behavior, attitude, perceptions, professional skills, job performance etc. linked with contemporary technological innovations.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The Pakistan Library and Information science community has seven research journals for research productivity in the field of librarianship. All the journals are strivings their best to publish quality research and serve the LIS community in a better way. The scrutiny of the available data depicted that PLISJ-published by Library Promotion Bureau Karachi, is the oldest research journal in this profession followed by Pakistan Journal of Information Management and Libraries (PJIM&L) of Department of Information Management, University of Punjab.

Five out of seven journals are not recognized by HEC and have no indexing with leading data bases of the publishing world. The publishers of the LIS journals in Pakistan need to enhance the quality by publishing standard manuscripts in their respective journals. Society oriented research should be given preference. The authors/contributors/ researchers from Pakistani LIS community should be given periodic training on “*How to produce and publish quality research*” for the enhancement of the quality of the research papers.

The publishers of the journals need to consult reputed international indexing and abstracting agencies for international exposure. The editorial team of the journals is recommended to become the members of COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) and follow the international journals strategies for the uplift of current status and quality of library and information sciences research journals and meet the requirement of local and global LIS community.

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