Bibliometric Analysis of the Journal of the University Librarians Association, Sri Lanka from 2012 to 2023

Dr. Bhatane Ravindra Dnyanoba
Librarian
Sanjeevanee Mahavidyalaya Chapoli
Tal. -Chakur Dist.-Latur Maharashtra-413513
ravi.bhatane@gmail.com

Abstract:
This research aimed to thoroughly investigate and analyse the "Journal of the University Librarian Association, Sri Lanka," covering a comprehensive timeframe from 2012 to 2023. This study addresses several significant aspects, including the temporal and volumetric composition of research articles within the journal, the geographical distribution of these articles, the observed authorship patterns, and the classification and distinctions between singularly authored works and collaboratively authored contributions. The results obtained from this research indicate that the articles included in the submissions to the Journal of the University Librarian Association, Sri Lanka, encompassed not only those from Sri Lanka but also a diverse array of submissions from authors globally. During the duration of the study, the journal published a total of 144 articles. It is important to highlight that the year with the highest submission rate was 2020, during which the journal published a total of 16 articles, accounting for an overall percentage of 47.96%. Additionally, the recorded rate of collaboration reached an average of 0.61, which is considered quite commendable in the field of academic publishing.

Keywords: Authorship pattern, Bibliometric, Bibliometric Analysis, Citations, country-wise distribution, Degree of collaboration, Journal of the University Librarian Association, References.

Introduction:
In 2005, the Journal of the University Librarian Association, Sri Lanka, started to be published by the University Librarian Association of Sri Lanka (ULASL). JULA embraces original contributions that are either to the field of knowledge in the information science and/or practice or informative and/or entertaining to the readers. The journal will only be published in an electronic version. JULA issues are biannual. It is focused on publishing original research articles of the members of the library and information science community. JULA is the journal that aims at making contributions to the promotion of the areas of library and information science, the provision of library and information services, the education of library and information science professionals and the publicity of research results in the field of library and information. [JULA: A Journal of the Progress of Library and Information Science]. The paper that is presented is a bibliometric analysis of the Journal of University Librarian Association. We have also analyzed and studied the year-wise distribution pattern of the articles, length of articles, number of references, pattern of authorship etc of the JULA journals published between the years 2012 to 2023. Since the bibliometric study is a quantitative research method in LIS, it relies on statistical counting to evaluate and measure the change in a specific object of interest. The simple statistical technique of counting is known as a bibliometric study to measure and appraise the development of any given area of research.

Review of Related Literature:

Rahul Kumar Singh and Dr. Ajit Kumar (2021), in the article 'A Bibliometric Study of DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology (2010-2019),' a bibliometric examination of the 542 articles that were published in the DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology (DJLIT) in the period from the year 2010 up to the year.
The most prevalent authorship pattern was double-author papers (47.60%), with single-author (31.73%) being the second most prevalent. The geosource that contributed the overwhelming majority of papers was India (84.31%), with the state in India that contributed the most papers being the state of Delhi. The most popular subject area was 'Bibliometrics/Scientometrics' (14%). A list of the top highly cited papers (with at least 30 citations each), totaling 16 papers, was also unearthed.

P. Lavanya & Manthena Madhu (2018), in their article "ASLIB Journal of Information Management, 2008-2017: A Bibliometric Study." The analysis demonstrated that the year with the highest productivity was 2017 producing 46 articles (11.59%). Two-authored papers were the most frequent authorship pattern (41.60%, 280 papers), and three-authored papers were the second (23.48%). Single-authored papers were the lowest at only 17.38%. The total collaboration degree was 0.83, which shows a very large preference for multi-authored research. In article length, the most frequent papers were those in the range from 16 to 20 pages (145 papers, 36.5%).

Afaf A. Abu Sirhan, Serhan A. Al Tawalbeh, Ibrahim N. Mohsen, and Mohammad A. Al Mahameed (2021) studied "A Bibliometric Study for Articles of the Jordanian Journal of Libraries and Information (1965-2017)." The information was gathered online. Single authorship was the most common, reaching 100% from 1965 to 1969 and remaining high at 71.1% from 2010 to 2017. Most of the papers were written by men (66.7% in 1965–69). Over the years, the subject of research changed. Biographies were popular in the 1960s and 1970s, but library administration (17 articles) and knowledge management (11 articles) were the most important themes in the 2000s and 2010s.

Objectives:
- Identify the distribution of articles by issue
- Examine the patterns in authorship
- Assess article distribution by country
- Evaluate the length of journal articles
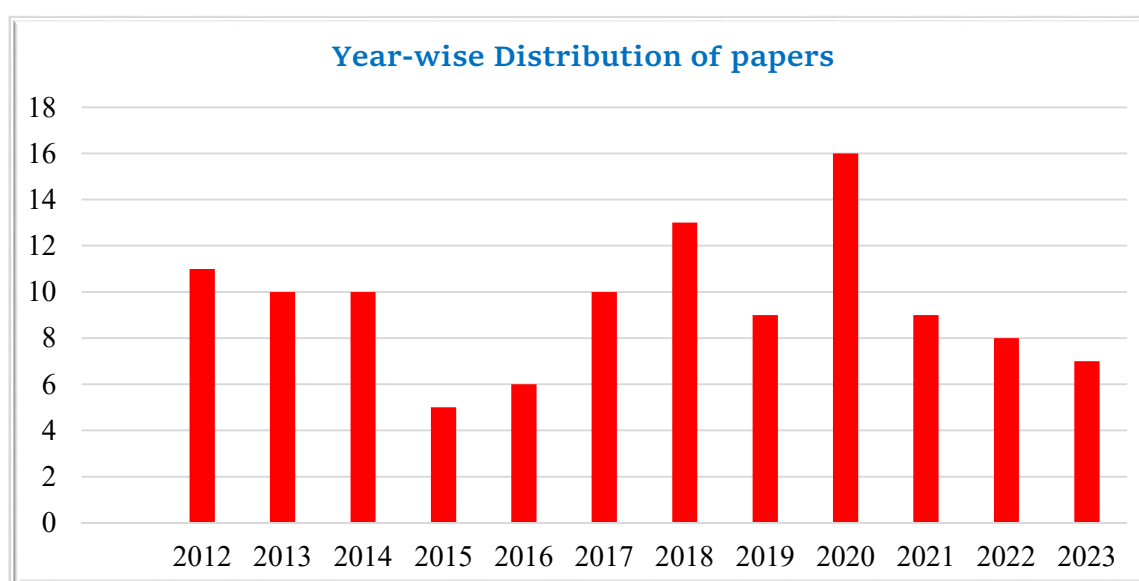- Determine the quantity of references.

Methodology:
The University Librarians' Association Journal (JULA) is an open-access peer-reviewed journal. Articles utilized in this study were accessed from www.ijlis.org and covered issues from the year 2012 up to the year 2023. The raw data were manually gathered from the articles accessed. Then, the information was put in order and organized in a way that made it easier to do analytical work. We used percentage analysis and other statistical methods to describe what we found. During the course of the study, 114 articles were examined. For every article, specific details such as the overall count of authors, page range, and citation frequency were documented. The information underwent thorough analysis, and relevant comments were noted.

Data analysis
Table 1: Year-wise Distribution of papers

Sr. No.	Year	Volume Number	Issue Number		No. Of Article	Percentage
			1	**2**		
1	2012	16	5	6	11	**9.64%**
2	2013	17	5	5	10	**8.77%**
3	2014	18	5	5	10	**8.77%**
4	2015	19	5	-	05	**4.38%**
5	2016	19	-	6	06	**5.26%**
6	2017	20	5	5	10	**8.77%**
7	2018	21	5	8	13	**11.40%**
8	2019	22	3	6	09	**7.89%**
9	2020	23	6	10	16	**14.03%**
10	2021	24	3	6	09	**7.89%**
11	2022	25	4	4	08	**7.01%**
12	2023	26	3	4	07	**6.14%**
Total					**114**	**100%**

The distribution of articles from JULA over the years is illustrated in Table 1 and Figure 1. The analysis encompassed 12 volumes and 22 issues of the journal. Throughout this 12-year span, a total of 114 papers were published. As shown in Table 1, the number of articles per issue varied between 5 and 16. Notably, the peak number of research outputs occurred in 2020, with 16 publications (14.06%), followed by 2018, which had 13 publications (11.40%), and 2012, which recorded 11 publications. The lowest output was seen in 2015, with only 5 publications (4.38%), closely followed by 6 publications (5.26%) in 2016. It is worth noting that the second issue was not released in 2015, and the first issue did not come out in 2016.

Figure 1

Table 2: Authorship Pattern of Publications

Year	Authorship Pattern				Total
	Single Author	Two Author	Three Author	More than three Author	
2012	7	4	0	0	11
2013	4	5	1	0	10
2014	5	5	0	0	10
2015	3	2	0	0	5
2016	4	1	1	0	6
2017	6	3	1	0	10
2018	4	6	2	1	13
2019	5	4	0	0	9
2020	4	9	3	0	16
2021	5	2	2	0	9
2022	3	4	0	1	8
2023	4	2	0	1	7
Total	**54**	**47**	**10**	**3**	**114**
Percentage	**47.36%**	**41.22%**	**8.77%**	**2.63%**	**100%**

The data in Table 2 indicates that 60 articles (52.62%) are collaborative. Single-authored articles constitute the majority, totalling 54 publications (47.36%), followed by dual-authored papers with 47 publications (41.22%), and papers with three authors amounting to 10 publications (8.77%). It is well recognized that contemporary research is predominantly conducted by individual researchers rather than by collaborative groups.

Degree of Collaboration:

To determine the degree of collaboration in quantitative terms, the following formula by Subramanian (1983) is used, which is expressed mathematically as:

$DC = N_m / (N_m + N_s)$

Where,

DC = Degree of Collaboration

N_m = Multi-authored publication

N_s = Single-authored publication

Table 3: Distribution of the year-wise Degree of Collaboration

Year	Single Authored Papers (N_s)	Multi Authored Papers (N_m)	Total ($N_s + N_m$)	Degree of Collaboration
2012	7	4	11	0.36
2013	4	6	10	0.6
2014	5	5	10	0.5
2015	3	2	5	0.4
2016	4	2	6	0.33
2017	6	4	10	0.4
2018	4	9	13	0.69
2019	5	4	9	0.44
2020	4	12	16	0.75
2021	5	4	9	0.44
2022	3	5	8	0.62
2023	4	3	7	0.42
Total	54	60	114	0.52

From the table 3 it is observed that in the present study the value of DC is

DC = 60 / (60+54)

= 60/114

= 0.52

The results indicate that the average degree of author cooperation in the specific publication is 0.52, demonstrating a developing trend in collaborative research within JULA. In 2020, the degree of cooperation reached 0.75, the most ever, whilst in 2016, it was 0.33, the lowest recorded.
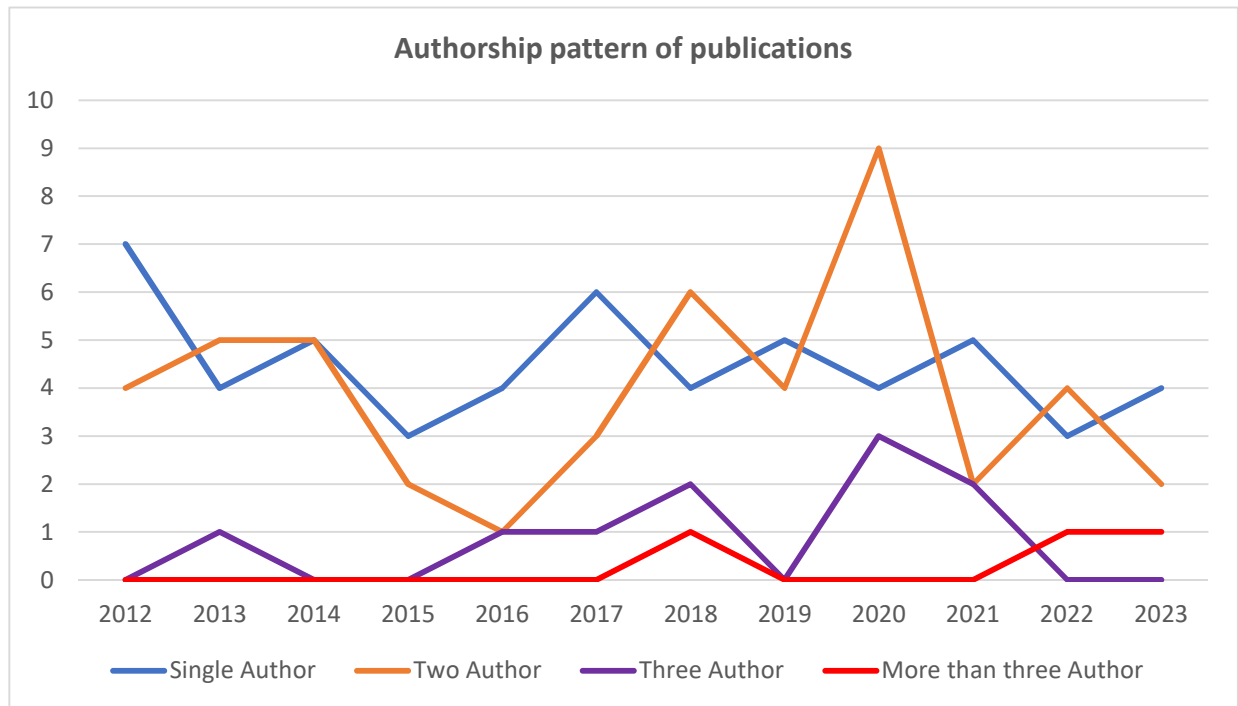

Figure 2

Table 4: Length of articles by Year-wise

Year	Pages						Total
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	More than 25	
2012	0	1	4	4	2	0	11
2013	0	2	3	2	2	1	10
2014	0	0	5	2	3	0	10
2015	1	0	0	1	2	1	5
2016	0	1	1	3	1	0	6
2017	0	0	5	4	0	1	10
2018	0	0	2	8	2	1	13
2019	0	1	3	4	1	0	9
2020	0	0	0	10	2	4	16
2021	0	0	0	3	0	6	9
2022	0	0	1	0	1	6	8
2023	0	0	0	2	3	2	7
Total	1	5	24	43	19	22	114
Percentage	0.87%	4.38%	21.05%	37.71%	16.66%	19.29%	100%

Table 4 shows how long the articles in publications were from 2012 to 2023. The most publications, 37.71 percent, are between 16 and 20 pages long. The next most, 21.05 percent, are between 11 and 15 pages long. The next most, 19.29 percent, are more than 25 pages long, and the last, 16.66 percent, are between 21 and 25 pages long. The second lesser number of publications, which is 1.38 percent, are between 6 and 10 pages long, while 0.87 percent of publications are between 1 and 5 pages long.
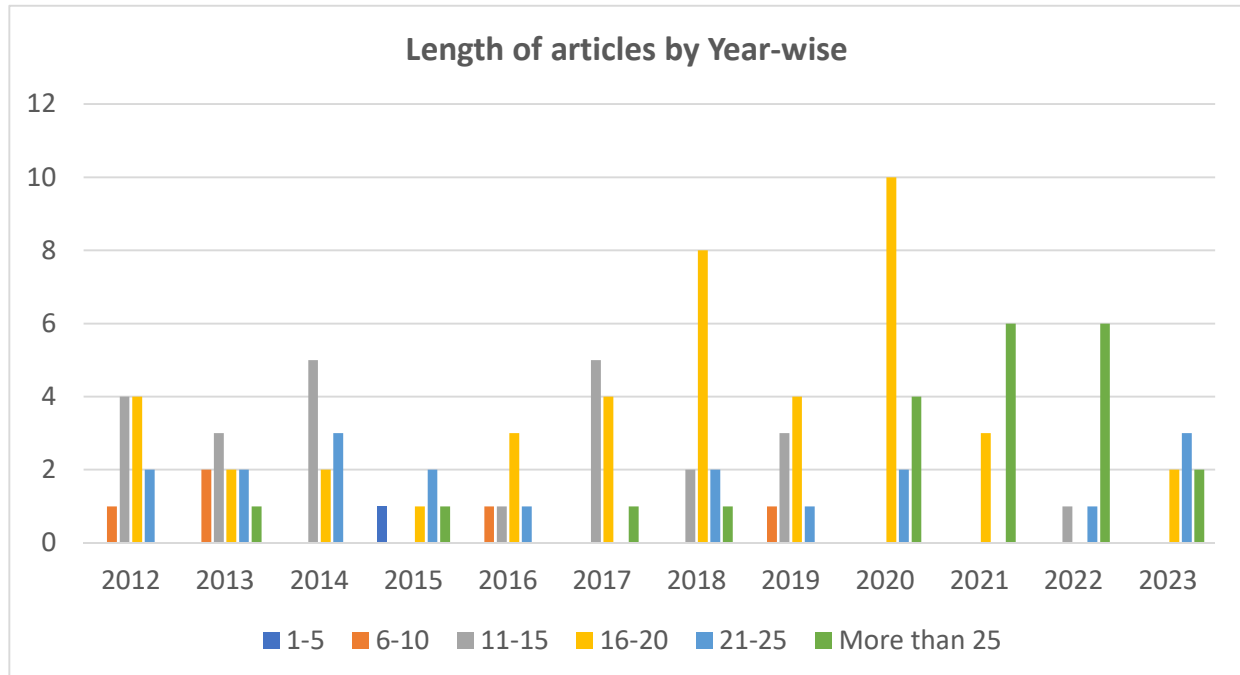

Figure 3

Table 5: Distributions of references per articles

No. of References	Article	Percentage	Cumulative
1-5	3	2.63	2.63
6-10	17	14.91	17.54
11-15	32	28.07	45.61
16-20	16	14.03	59.64
21-25	13	11.40	71.04
More than 25	33	28.94	100
Total	**114**	**100**	**100**

Table 5 shows how many references were added to each publication. It is obvious that 28.94 percent of articles had more than 25 references each, while 28.07 percent of publications had 11 to 15 references each. There are 6 to 10 references in 14.91 percent of papers, and so forth. The lowest number of references, 1–5, and the second lowest number of references, 21–25, have occurred in 2.63 and 11.40 percent of publications, respectively. The research community has come to a consensus that research articles should include a substantial number of references.
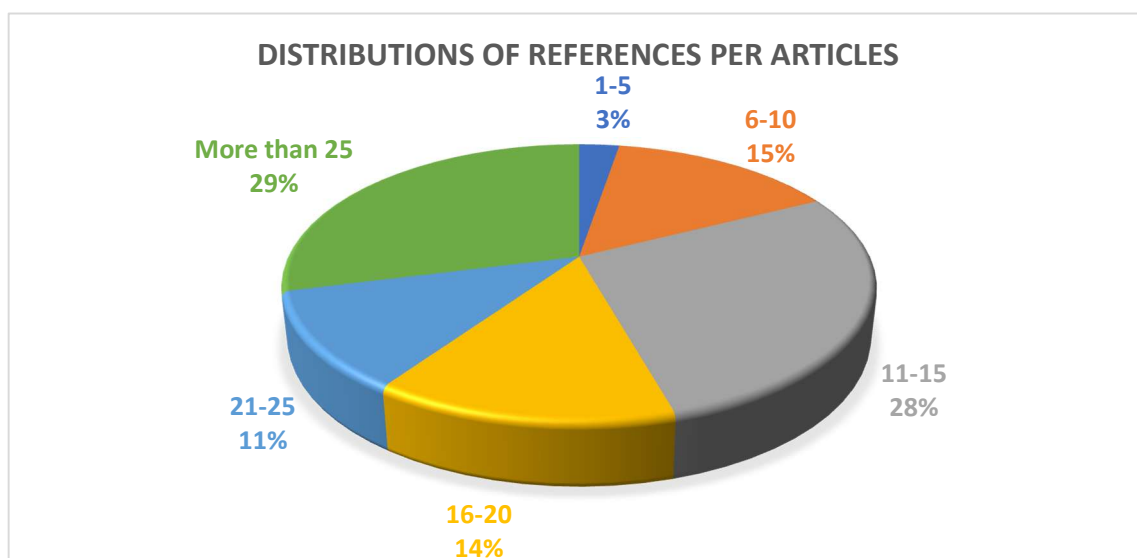
Figure 4

Table 6: Country-wise distribution of articles contributions

Sr. No.	Name of Countries	No. of Article	Percentage	Order of rank
1	Sri Lanka	111	97.36	1
2	China	2	1.75	2
3	India	1	0.87	3
	Total	144	100	

Table 6 shows that Sri Lanka (97.36%) is the nation that contributes the most papers to the Journal of the University Librarian Association. China (1.75%) is in second place. India contributed one article (0.87%).

Table 7: Most Prolific Authors:

Rank	Author Name	No. of article
1	T. Ramanan	7
2	S. Santharooban	6
3	Sajeewanie D. Somaratna	4
4	M.P.P. Dilhani	3
4	Navaneethakrishnan , S	3
4	S. Weerasinghe	3
4	T. Sritharan	3
5	B. M. M. C. B. Hindagolla	2
5	C. K. Gamage	2
5	C.N.D. Punchihewa	2
5	Chandima Wadasinghe	2
5	Damayanthi Gunasekera	2
5	J. Lavanya	2
5	K. Murugathas	2
5	Kumara, A. D. B.	2
5	M. N. Ravikumar	2
5	M.M.I.K. Marasinghe	2

Rank	Author Name	No. of article
5	P. K. Jayasekera	2
5	P.K.M. Kaushamalika	2
5	Perera, P.A.S.H	2
5	pradeepa wijetunge	2
5	Punchihewa, C.N.D	2
5	R. Balasubramani	2
5	S Ketheeswaren	2
5	W. A. Weerasooriya	2
5	W.R.W.M.A.U. Weerakoon	2
5	Wijayaratne, Anusha	2
5	Wijetunge, Pradeepa	2
5	Wijewickrema, P. K. C. M	2
5	Amarasekara, Ramani	2

Table 7 shows the names of 30 writers who wrote two or more papers. T. Ramanan wrote the most papers (7), followed by S. Santharooban (6) and Sajeewanie D. Somaratna (4). Four authors each wrote three papers: M.P.P. Dilhani, Navaneethakrishnan, S. S. Weerasinghe, and T. Sritharan. The remaining author listed in Table 8 has contributed two papers.
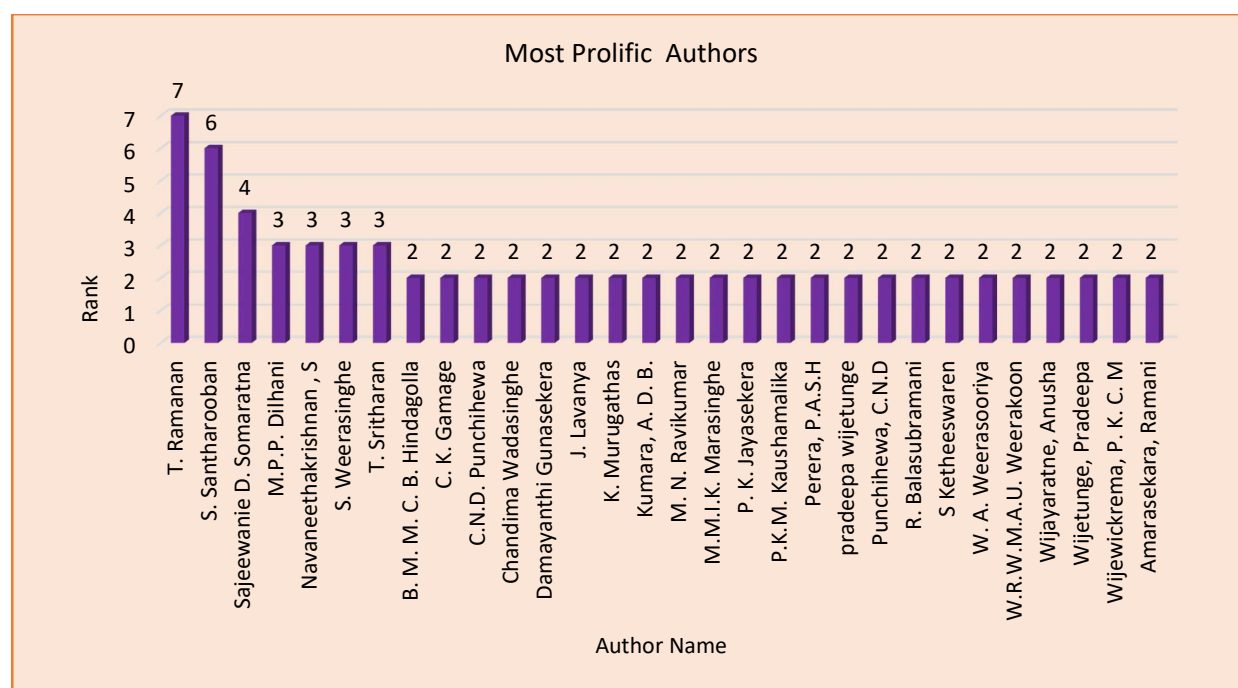

Figure 5

Table 8: Distribution of intellectual output by institutions

Sr. No.	Name of Institute	No. of Papers
1	University of Colombo, Sri Lanka	32
2	Open University of Sri Lanka	27
3	University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	24
4	Eastern University of Sri Lanka	21

Sr. No.	Name of Institute	No. of Papers
5	University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka	15
6	University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka	12
7	University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	10
8	University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.	10
9	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	3
10	South Eastern University of Sri Lanka	3
11	Agriculture Library, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	2
12	General sri john kotelawala defence university	2
13	University of Sri Jayewardenepur	2
14	Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka	2
15	wayamba university of sri lanka	2
16	Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, P.R. China	2

Table 8 provides a comprehensive overview of the research output from various universities. Leading the list is the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka, which has produced an impressive 32 articles. Following closely is the Open University of Sri Lanka, contributing 27 articles and highlighting its robust research environment. The University of Peradeniya, another prominent institution, ranks third with 24 articles. Significant contributions also come from the University of Jaffna and the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, which published 21 and 15 articles, respectively. The University of Moratuwa, with 12 articles, demonstrates its ongoing influence in the research landscape. Additionally, ten other Sri Lankan universities, including Kelaniya and Ruhuna, tie for tenth place, each with ten publications. Mentioned alongside these is Wuhan University of Technology in China, suggesting a focus on a specific area or collaborative efforts among researchers from various countries. This table not only reflects the diverse research activities taking place in Sri Lanka but also hints at potential collaborations and shared interests between Sri Lankan institutions and their global counterparts.
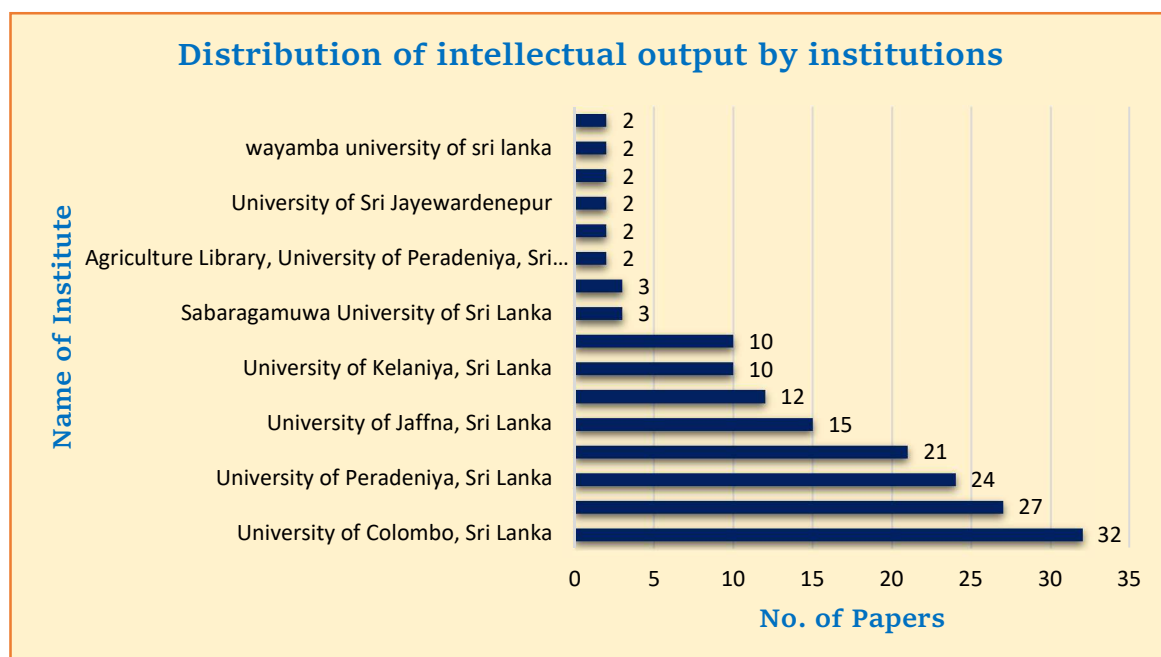

Figure 6

Conclusion

This bibliometric analysis of the Journal of the University Librarians Association, Sri Lanka (JULA) 2012-2023 provides a profile of its development, contributors, and published research. Since then, the journal has become a leading scholarly communication outlet in Sri Lanka's library and information science (LIS) community with early international involvement. After analyzing 114 articles, the researcher finds the following conclusion.

1. 2020 was the year that had the largest number of research papers, with 16 articles accounting for 14.06 percent of the total and the minimum number of research outputs is 5 publications (4.38%) in 2015.
2. 60 articles (52.62%) are collaborative. Single-authored articles constitute the majority, totalling 54 publications (47.36%), followed by dual-authored papers with 47 publications (41.22%), and papers with three authors amounting to 10 publications (8.77%).
3. The most publications, 37.71 percent, are between 16 and 20 pages long. while 0.87% of publications are between 1 and 5 pages long.
4. It is obvious that 28.94% of articles had more than 25 references each, while the lowest number of references, 1–5, occurred in 2.63%.
5. The nation that contributes the most papers to the Journal of the University Librarian Association. China (1.75%) is in second place. India contributed one article (0.87%).
6. T. Ramanan wrote the most papers (7), followed by S. Santharooban (6) and Sajeewanie D. Somaratna (4). Four authors each wrote three papers: M.P.P. Dilhani, Navaneethakrishnan, S. S. Weerasinghe, and T. Sritharan. The remaining author listed in Table 8 has contributed two papers.
7. The University of Colombo in Sri Lanka is at the top of the list with an astounding 32 articles. With 27 articles, the Open University of Sri Lanka is quite close behind, showing that there is a strong research culture there.

References

1. Abu Sirhan, A. A., Al Tawalbeh, S. A., Mohsen, I. N., & Al Mahameed, M. A. ((2021). *A Bibliometric Study for Articles of the Jordanian Journal of Libraries and Information (1965-2017)*. https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202102.0437.v1
2. Angammana, A. M. S., & Jayatissa. (2015). A Bibliometric Study of Postgraduate Theses in Library and Information Science: with special reference to. In *Journal of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka* (Vol. 19).
3. DORASWAMY, M., & JANAKIRAMAIAH, M. (2013). INFORMATION USE PATTERN OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. In Dravidian University & Mohammadiya Institute of Management, *International Journal of Digital Library Services* (Vol. 33, Issue 1, pp. 1–35) [Conference-proceeding].
4. *Google*. (n.d.). Retrieved October 16, 2025, from https://www.google.com/?zx=1760623252720&no_sw_cr=1
5. Kumar Sahu, H. (n.d.). *International Journal of Library and Information Studies ASLIB Journal of Information Management from 2005 To 2016: A Bibliometric Analysis*. http://www.ijlis.org
6. Lavanya, P., & Madhu, M. (2018). ASLIB Journal of Information Management, 2008-2017: A Bibliometric Study. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 8(3), 378-388. Retrieved from http://www.ijlis.org
7. Lijina, P. (n.d.). *International Journal of Library and Information Studies A Bibliometric Study of International Journal of Library and Information Science*. http://www.iaeme.com/IJLIS/index.asp.

8. Maharaja Manindra Chandra College Kolkata, L., & Sudhakarpur High School Nadia, L. (n.d.). *International Journal of Library and Information Studies A Bibliometric Study on Collaborative Research and Development Output of Statistical Quality Control and Operation Research (SQC & OR) Division of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) during 2010-2014 Soumen Kayal Baisakhi Das*. http://www.ijlis.org

9. Mensah Borteye, E., Aviamu, A. Y., Yao Humphrey-Ackumey, S. A., & Akotey, R. (2023). Celebrating More Than Three Decades of Scholarly Publishing: A Bibliometric Analysis of the Journal of Science and Technology (JUST). *Journal of Science and Technology (Ghana)*, *41*(2), 1–15. https://doi.org/10.4314/just.v41i2.1

10. Navaneethakrishnan, S., & Kupesan. (2014). Bibliometric analysis of Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities. In *Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka* (Vol. 18, Issue 1).

11. Parabhoi, L., & Sahu, R. R. (2020, December 3). [PDF] Bibliometric Study of Library and Information Science Journal Articles during 2014 2018 | Semantic Scholar. https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Bibliometric-Study-of-Library-and-Information-2014-Sahu-Parabhoi/edc2373c801fde87790b5f00094a3477182a6d47

12. Rajev Manager, M., & Joseph, S. (2016). Special Issue on Bibliometric & Scientometric Studies A Bibliometric Analysis on Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science. In *International Research: Journal of Library & Information Science |* (Vol. 6, Issue 1).

13. Ravikumar, M. N., & Ramanan, T. (2020). Application of mixed metrics of bibliometric analysis on the journal of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka (2005 to 2019): with special reference to VOS viewer visualization. *Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka*, *23*(2), 157–184. https://doi.org/10.4038/jula.v23i2.8012

14. Sharma, B., & Sharma, A. (n.d.). *THE JOURNAL OF INFORMATION SCIENCE THEORY AND PRACTICE (JISTAP): A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS (2013-2017)*. DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5198/

15. Singh, R. K., & Kumar, A. (2021). A Bibliometric Study of DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology (2010-2019). *Journal of Indian Library Association*, 57(2), 90-105. Retrieved from https://journal.ilaindia.net/

16. Subramanyam, K. (1983). Bibliometric studies of research collaboration: A review. *Journal of Information Science*, 6(1), 33–38. https://doi.org/10.1177/016555158300600105