

A Study of Library and Information Science Journals Removed from the UGC Approved List

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Abstract

On May 2nd, 2018, the UGC published a list of 4305 removed from the list of approved journals. These 4305 journals include 64 Library and Information Science journals which were removed based on various criteria: failing in meeting the primary criteria of maintaining website with address of the editor(s); and having an overall low score than the stipulated score; questionable/poor quality, etc. This paper examines the removed journals in the subject of Library and Information Science in terms of standing, publisher, subject coverage, past rankings, coverage in the indexing and abstracting databases, etc.

Keywords: Library and Information Science Journals, Removed LIS Journals, UGC Approved List, UGC API

1. Introduction

As part of UGC Regulations 2009, the UGC notified an open list of 38,652 Journals on its website on 10th January 2017 (http://ugc.ac.in/ugc_notices.aspx?id=1604).

- A category-wise approved list of journals on the UGC website was made available for about 32000 journals with details of: name of the journal, ISSN/eISSN, source, subject, publisher, country and broad subject category. Besides, 13,130 ceased journal publications were listed separately (<https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/methodology.pdf>),
- Universities were asked to submit details of journals (such as name of the journal, publisher and place of publication, year of start, hard copy publisher (Y/N), e-publication (Y/N), ISSN, peer reviewed/refereed/ reviewed (Y/N), indexing status, impact factor/rating (name of IF assigning agency, whether covered in Thompson & Reuter, and whether the journal used any exclusive criteria),
- The UGC also asked the stakeholders to inform UGC of any predatory, fake or questionable jour-

nals in the UGC approved list (<https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/predatory.pdf>),

- Based on the inputs a final list of 32,659 journal names (titles) was made available (Notification on Journals, 2017),
- Checklist for evaluation of the journals was developed: full address and e-mail of editor and his associates; website for the journal; peer review policy and ethics policy; frequency and regularity; indexing databases, charges levied for publications; and longevity of the journal, and
- More recently on 2nd May, 2018 a list of journals removed s from the original approved list was published. Based on feedback from the academic and research community and scrutiny, 4305 journals were removed. Another 191 titles covered in Indian Citation Index are pending for evaluation by the Standing Committee on Notification of Journals (https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/Removed_Journals.pdf, https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/4305_Journals.pdf, https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/191_Journals.pdf).

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2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study include:

- To examine the removed journals on the basis of source list, standing, publisher, subject coverage, past rankings, coverage in the indexing and abstracting databases, etc.

3. Methodology

This is a continuation of a few earlier studies (Gupta, Kumar & Kabra, (2017, 2018)).

Prior to bringing out the list of journals removed from the approved list, the UGC list had 357 journals out of which 91 journals were being brought out from India. To identify the removed journals, previous list was compared with the current list and it was found that 64 journals had been removed (51 Indian journals and 13 journals from other countries) from the list.

The UGC list offers search facility with the title of the journal list in the current titles, current and ceased titles, and ISSN. On searching individual titles in current and ceased titles, the available journals in the list are presented in the Table 1.

Table 1. Journal in the current and ceased journal list

Sl. No.	Title of journal	Removed Status (UGC Sl. No.)	Current Status (UGC Sl. No.)	Remarks
1.	Herald of Library Science	64018	41178	Already ceased
2.	KIIT Journal of Library and Information Management	49193	45866	“and”/ “&”
3.	SRELS Journal of Information Management	64433	33656	Wrong title: SRELS Journal of Library Management
4.	World Digital Libraries: An International journal	64409	41342	Different publisher

Table 2. Reasons for removal LIS journals

Reason of removal	No. of Indian journals	No. of journals from other countries	Description of reason
Primary Criteria	18	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The journal has a website which provides full postal and email addresses of Chief Editor and Editors, and at least some of these addresses are verifiable official addresses (https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/4305_Journals.pdf)
First Criteria	0	2	

4. Discussions

4.1 Reasons for Removal of the Journals

The Journals recommended for inclusion either by the Committee(s) or by the Universities were checked against the criteria developed by the Standing Committee (<https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/methodology.pdf>): Journals that did not have a website and addresses of editor(s) were removed for non-fulfillment of primary criteria. Journals that scored less than 6 in Science, Social Sciences and Multidisciplinary category and less than 5 in Humanities based on the criteria were supposed to be removed from the list.

In the list of removed journals, the reason for removal of each journal is mentioned (https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/4305_Journals.pdf). Table 2 mentions about the number of journals with specific reason(s) and the criteria used for such rejections from the list.

Table 2 indicates that 24 (40%) of the journals were removed for non-availability of website with verifiable postal and email addresses of chief editor and editors. 36 journals did not meet the required minimum score for quality.

Low Score	29	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The website provides complete instructions to authors/reviewers 2. The journal has a well-defined peer-review and publication policy 3. The journal has a well-defined Ethics policy 4. The journal has a declared frequency of publication each year 5. The journal is published regularly and in time following its declared frequency 6. The journal claims that it is indexed in a given database and this claim is verified 7. Journal levies submission/publication charges 8. Since when is the journal being regularly published (https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/4305_Journals.pdf)
Questionable/ Poor	0	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on received e-mail(s) by UGC on complaints about inclusion of predatory, fake or questionable journals from Research Scholars / Students who have not identified themselves in their mails (https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/predatory.pdf)
Total	47	13	

4.2 Source of the Removed Journal

The journals in the database were included from many sources, viz Web of Science, Scopus, ICI, journals

recommended by the universities and UGC committee. Data regarding source of removed journals is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Source of removed LIS journals

Source*	No. of journals (before 2nd May 2018)	No. of journals (After 2nd May 2018)	No. removed journals from India	No. removed journals from other countries
Only ICI	13	11	0	0
Only Scopus	122	122	0	0
Only WoS	0	0	0	0
ICI & WoSaw	0	0	0	0
ICI & Scopus	1	1	0	0
ICI, WoS & Scopus	0	0	0	0
WoS & Scopus	66	66	0	0
UGC	65	64	2	1
University	90	29	49	12
Total	357	293	51	13

*The UGC-approved List of Journals consists of: 1) Journals Indexed in WoS; 2) Journals Indexed in Scopus; 3) Journals Indexed in Indian Citation Index (ICI); 4) Journals Recommended by the Members of UGC Standing Committee and Language Committee (s); and 5) Journals Recommended by the Universities (after removing duplicates) (<https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/>).

While looking at the source of the removed journals, Table 3 indicates that a large number of journals belong to the list provided by the universities whereas two journals belong to the source 'UGC'.

4.3 Subject Coverage of the Removed Journals

Many journals in the removed list covered 'Library and Information Science. However, the journals in Table 4 are multidisciplinary.

4.4 Standing of the Removed Journals

Standing of the journals is one of the important criteria for evaluating the journals. The UGC list of approved journals does not provide the starting year of the journal. As such a number of different sources were used to identify the year of commencement (Dutta & Sen, (2014), <http://nsl.niscair.res.in/ISSNPROCESS/issnassignedinfo.jsp>, <http://web.aebcohost.com/ehost/search/basic?sid=90ebfefb-cc6c-44f3-a65d-8cbc825cd27%40sessi-onmgr4010&vid=3&hid=4204>, <https://www.ebscohost.com/academic/library-literature-information-science-index>, <https://portal.issn.org/>).

Table 4. Multiple subject coverage in removed journals

Sl. No.	UGC Sl. No.	Journal Name	Subject
1.	47715	Academic Social Research	Business, Management and Accounting (all); Library and Information Sciences; Social Sciences (all); veterinary (all)
2.	63651	Journal Global Values	Economics, Econometrics and Finance (all); Environmental Science (all); History; Law; Library and Information Sciences; Public Administration; Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health
4.	48557	Prajna: Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Administration	Business and International Management; Business, Management and Accounting (all); English; Gujarati; Hindi; Library and Information Sciences; Linguistics and Language; Sanskrit; Social Sciences (all)
5.	47614	Spark International Online - journal	Business, Management and Accounting (all); Computer Science (all); English; Library and Information Sciences; Social Sciences(all);Sociology and Political Science
6.	48457	The Equanimit	Anthropology; Communication; Hindi; Library and Information Sciences; Social Sciences (all);Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality Management

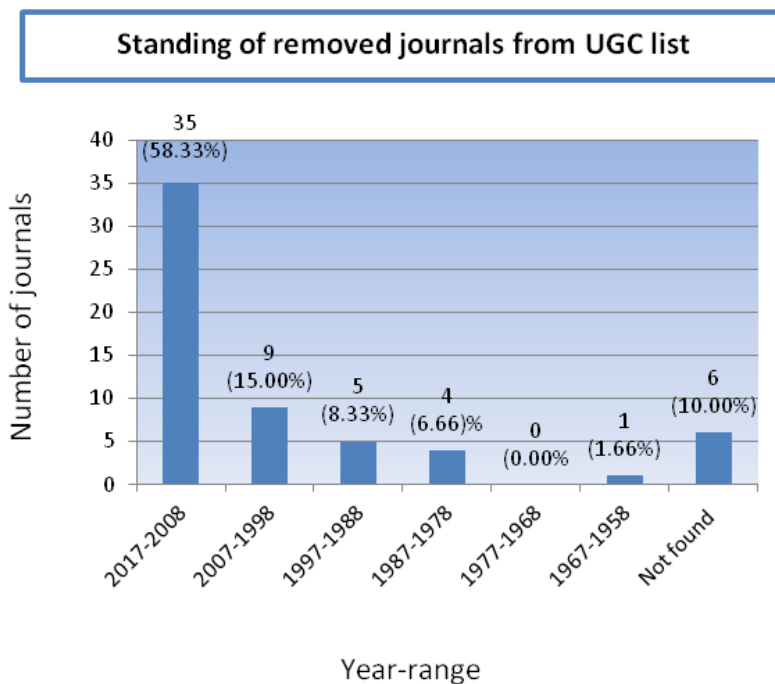


Figure 1. Standing of removed journals from UGC list.

The standing of the journals is presented in the Figure 1. From the Figure 1, it is clear that about 60% of the journals started in 2008 or later, i.e. after the introduction of API for direct recruitment and promotion of university and college teachers and librarians.

4.5 Publisher-wise Distribution of Removed Journals

There are different publishers for the journals, the data available in the list were categorized into: Associations, Central University, Foreign Institute/University, Individuals, Journal, Private Institute/ University, Private Publishing house, Society/Foundation, State University, Website, etc. which are presented in the Figure 2.

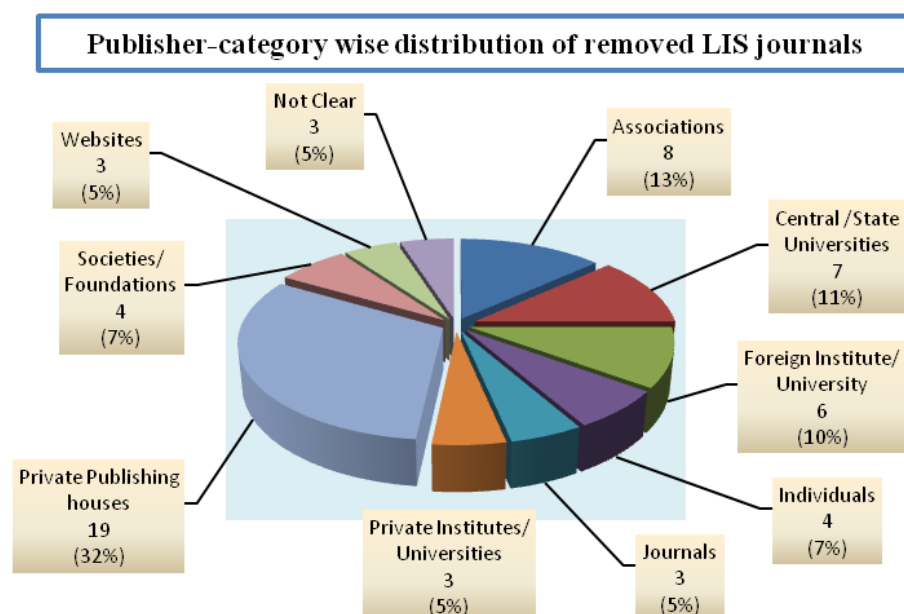


Figure 2. Publisher-category-wise distribution of removed LIS journals.

Table 5. Top ranked journals (based on previous studies)

Journal Name	Previous Studies	Ranking Criteria used in the Studies
<i>Annals of Library Science & Documentation</i>	Mahapatra (1994); Kherde (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahapatra (1994): On the basis of bibliometric analysis of rate of citations and their characteristics
<i>Annals of Library and Information Studies</i>	Patra and Chand (2006); Patra and Chand (2009); Mahesh (2012); Sen (2014); Gupta et.al (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kherde (2003): Based on citations in the journal during 1996–2001
<i>Herald of Library Science</i>	Mahapatra (1994); Kherde (2003); Patra and Chand (2006); Patra and Chand (2009); Mahesh (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patra and Chand (2006): Based on number of papers from LISA during 1967–2004
<i>Journal of Library and Information Science</i>	Mahapatra (1994); Patra and Chand (2006); Patra and Chand (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patra and Chand (2009): Based on number of papers from LISA during 1967–2005

Majority of the journals removed from the list are published by private publishing houses (above 30%) followed by professional associations 8(13%). Interestingly 16 journals (a little over 25%) of the removed journals are being published by universities – Indian and foreign.

4.6 Removal of Highly Ranked Journals

In the past, authors have published papers in many journals but the removal of those journals from the UGC list automatically disqualify them for getting points in API for publishing in the whatever good journals in the past. Although different authors ranked on different criteria and ranked different number of journals; here only top ranked five journals are presented in the Table 5.

<i>Library Science with a Slant to Documentation</i>	Mahapatra (1994); Kherde (2003)	• Mahesh and Wadhwa (2012): based on cited reference in Web of Science
<i>SRELS Journal of Information management</i>	Patra and Chand (2006); Kherde (2003); Mahesh (2012); Sen (2014); Gupta et.al (2018)	• Sen (2014): Based on Impact factor of the journal for the year 2013
<i>IASLIC Bulletin</i>	Mahapatra (1994); Kherde (2003); Patra and Chand (2006); Patra and Chand (2009); Mahesh (2012)	• Gupta et.al (2018): Based on Google Scholar H5 Index
<i>ILA Bulletin</i>	Kherde (2003)	
<i>Lucknow Librarian</i>	Patra and Chand (2009)	
<i>Library Herald</i>	Mahesh (2012)	
<i>Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management</i>	Sen (2014); Gupta et.al (2018)	
<i>Information Studies</i>	Sen (2014)	
<i>DESIDOC Journals of Library & Information Technology</i>	Sen (2014); Gupta et.al (2018)	

Table 5, the available journals in the UGC list include: DESIDOC Journals of Library and Information Technology, Library Herald, IASLIC Bulletin, Journal of Library and Information Science, Annals of Library and Information Studies. ILA Bulletin is included under its new title 'Journal of Indian Library Association'. However, the list includes Lucknow librarian, which has ceased publication. Other journals do not figure in the list are Information Studies and Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management.

The journal 'Herald of Library Science' is available in the UGC list of current and ceased journals' This and *International Information, Communication and Education*

have ceased publication' (Datta & Sen, 2014). Both these journals were indexed in the subject based abstracting/indexing databases, while one journal is included in the list of journals that have ceased publication, the other is missing. Similarly, many other journals which were/are covered in one or more LIS abstracting and indexing databases are not found in the UGC lists.

Initially, coverage in the subject based abstracting and indexing databases was an attribute for getting additional points for the paper and later considered as one of the criteria for the inclusion in the UGC list. Many of the journals now removed from the list continue to be indexed in these databases as presented in the Table 6.

Table 6. Removed journals and the databases indexing them (LISA/LISTA/Library literature & information science index)

Sl. No.	UGC Sl. No.	Name of journal	Name of databases (Coverage of journal)
1.	64603	Agricultural Information Worldwide	Library Literature & Information Science Index; LISTA
2.	21136	Information Studies	LISA; LISTA; Library Literature & Information Science Index
3.	47420	International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology (IJIDT)	Library Literature & Information Science Index
4.	64008	Information Retrieval and Library Automation	LISTA
5.	63566	Journal of Philippine Librarianship	LISA; LISTA
6.	63802	Perspectives in International Librarianship	Library Literature & Information Science Index
7.	63801	Progressive Librarian	Library Literature; LISTA
8.	63714	Virginia Libraries	LISTA; Library Literature & Information Science Index
9.	64123	World Libraries	LISTA; Library Literature & Information Science Index

The journal 'Information Studies' is the only journal which is covered in all the three databases while five journals are covered in at least two databases. However, while looking at the reason for removal of these journals, it is found that three journals were removed on the basis of primary criteria while six journals were removed on the basis of low score.

5. Conclusion

This paper examines the list of journals in LIS removed by UGC. Evidently some of the journals are of acceptable quality as they continue to be indexed in important databases. It is therefore important for journal publishers to carefully examine the UGC criteria and ensure that these are met.

6. References

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Annexure 1

Consolidated list of removed LIS journals from UGC approved list of journals

Sl. No.	UGC Sl. No.	Journal Name	Covered in databases (LISA; LISTA; Library Literature & Information Science Index; Google Scholar)	Year	Publisher	ISSN	Source	Reason of Rejection	Country (as per UGC list)
1.	47715	Academic Social Research	-	2015	South Asian Management Association	2456-2645	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
2.	64603	Agricultural Information Worldwide	Library Literature & Information Science Index; LISTA	Not found	IAALD	2075-7751	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
3.	43815	Asian Journal of Library and Information Science	-	2011	e-Science World,	0975-315X	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
4.	16142	COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management	Google Scholar	2007	Taru Publications	0973-7766	ICI	Reject: Low Score	India
6.	64648	IALA Journal	-	2012	Indian Academic Library Association	2319-1392	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
7.	45655	IJALIS	-	2013	Academic Research Journals	2360-7858	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
8.	64538	Indian Journal of Agricultural Library and Information Services	-	2008	Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists of India	0974-8776	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
9.	45664	Indian Journal of information science and Services	-	2007	Bannari Amman Institute of Technology	0973-8967	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
10.	64519	Information Age	-	2007	Dr. P S G Kumar Library Foundation	0973-6018	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
11.	21136	Information Studies	LISA; LISTA; Library Literature & Information Science Index	1995	Indianjournals.com	0971-6726	ICI	Reject: Low Score	India

12.	45703	Int. J. of Engg. Sci. & Mgmt. (IJESM)	-	2011	Drona-charya Group of Institutions	2231-3273	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
13.	64497	International e-Journals of Library Science	-	2013	Guru Nanak Institute of Management Studies, Library Research Team, Khalsa College Campus Kings Circle Matunga, Mumbai	2319-992X	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
14.	63332	International Information Communication & Education	-	1982	International Information Communication & Education	0970-1850	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
15.	64190	International journal of Computer Applications,	Google Scholar	2011	IJCA	2250-1797	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
16.	45734	International Journal of Engineering & Scientific Research,	-	2013	International Journals of Multidisciplinary Research Academy (IJMRA)	2347-6532	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
17.	45743	International Journal of Engineering and Technology Advances (IJETA)	-	2014	Eight sense research group	2348-1625	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
18.	45752	International Journal of Engineer-ing Technology and Management Research.	-	2015	Granthaalayah Publications & Printers	2454-1907	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
19.	47420	International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology (IJIDT)	Library Literature & Information Science Index; Google Scholar	2011	Dr Ashok Kr Garg	2229-5984; 2249-5576 (e)	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
20.	49311	International Journal of Information Movement	-	2016	NK Publishing	2456-0553 (e)	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India

21.	64813	International Journal of Library and Information Management	-	2010	Amba International Publishers	0975-878X	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
22.	64736	International Journal of Library and Information Science (IJLIS)	Google Scholar	2012	https://www.iaeme.com/ijlis/index.asp	2277-3533; 2277-3584 (e)	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
23.	64344	International Journal of Library and Information Studies	-	2011	PEARL	2231-4911	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
24.	64720	International Journal of Library Management and Services	-	2014	http://sal.org.in/index.php/publications/ijlms/ed.html	2349-6347	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
25.	63819	International Journal of Next Generation Library and Technologies	-	2015	Thirunavukkarasu. T.C no 11/20F Naidu Street, Second Lane Kotturpuram, Chennai	2395-5201	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
26.	43808	International Research: Journal of Library & Information Science	Google Scholar	2011	Department of Library and Information Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	2249-0213	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
27.	48641	ISST Journal of Advances In Librarianship	-	2010	Intellectuals Society for Socio-Techno Welfare	0976-9021	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
28.	63651	Journal Global Values	-	2010	Journal Anu Books	0976-9447; 2454-8391(e)	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
29.	49241	Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science	-	2012	http://www.jalis.in/editorial_board.html	2277-2219	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
30.	43818	Journal of Current Trends in Library and Information Science	-	2014	Society for Quality Education	2348-8395	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India

31.	45859	Journal of Information Management and Scientometrics	-	2004 (possibly ceased)	Dept. of Library Science, A.M.U. Aligarh	0972-9925	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
32.	63344	Journal of Information Technology and Library Science	-	2013	Enriched Publications Information Database	2347-9760	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
33.	43819	Journal of Knowledge & Communication Management	-	2011	Diva Enterprises Pvt. Ltd	2277-7938	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
34.	64812	Journal of Library and Information communication Technology	-	2012	Madhu Bala	2278-3482	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
35.	45863	Journal of Library Development (JLD)	-	2015	Legends Consulting Pvt. Ltd	2395-518X	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
37.	63265	Knowledge Librarian	-	2014	Knowledge Publishing, Printing and Distribution House, Aurangabad	2394-2479 (e)	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
38.	64744	Librarian	-	1984	Jadavpur University	0972-3978	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
39.	64084	Lucknow Librarian	-	1962	Uttar Pradesh Library Association	0024-7219	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
40.	48557	Prajna: Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Administration	-	1991	Sardar Patel University	2250-0901	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
41.	47973	Professional journal of Library and Information technology	-	2010	Sanjay Sharma	0976-7274	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
42.	45237	RBU Journal of Library & Information Science	-	1997	Department of Library & Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University	0972-2750	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India

43.	43822	Research Spectra: An International Multidisciplinary Referred Journal	-	2015	Research Spectra	2394-9805	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
44.	47614	Spark International Online e – journal	-	2009	Dr. B.R. Parmar	0975-9729	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
46.	62711	Swadeshi Research Foundation A Quarterly Journal of Multidisciplinary Research	-	2014	SRF publisher Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) India	2394-3580; 2394-3580 (e)	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
47.	48457	The Equanimist	-	2015	Oihd Allahabad	2395-7468	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
48.	45135	Trends in Information Management	Google Scholar	2005	University of Kashmir	0973-4163	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
49.	44539	VEETHIKA - An International Interdisciplinary Research Journal	-	2015	Q Tanalytics India, Delhi	2454-342X (e)	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	India
50.	43708	Vidyasagar University Journal of Library and Information Science	-	1987	Vidyasagar University	0972-8570	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	India
52.	63278	Ariadane	-	1998	Lough-borough University Library	1361-3200	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	United Kingdom
53.	64008	Information Retrieval and Library Automation	LISTA	Not found	Lomond Systems, Inc.	0020-0220	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	United States
54.	45811	International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (International Journal of Research in Social Sciences)	-	Not found	A R F - K A J Printing	2249-2496	UGC	Reject: Low Score	United States

55.	63695	International Journal of Special Libraries	-	1984	Technische Universitaet Berlin	0019-0217	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	Germany
56.	64027	Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice	-	Not found	Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information	2287-9099; 2287-4577 (e)	UNIV	Reject: Questionable/Poor	Korea
57.	63353	Journal of Knowledge Management Practice	-	1999	TLA The Leadership Alliance Inc.	1705-9232	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	Canada
58.	63366	Journal of Library and Information Science Research	-	Not found	Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan)	1990-9128	UNIV	Reject: Primary Criteria	China
59.	63566	Journal of Philippine Librarianship	LISA; LISTA	2002	University of the Philippines Diliman Journals Online	0022-359X	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	Philippines
60.	63708	Library Consortium Management: An International Journal	-	Not found	Emerald	1466-2760	UNIV	Reject: First Criteria	United States
61.	63802	Perspectives in International Librarianship	Library Literature	2011	Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press	2219-8962	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	Qatar
62.	63801	Progressive Librarian	Library Literature & Information Science Index; LISTA	2000	Progressive Librarians Guild	1052-5722	UNIV	Reject: First Criteria	United States
63.	63714	Virginia Libraries	LISTA; Library Literature & Information Science Index	1996	Virginia Libraries Association	1086-9751	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	United States
64.	64123	World Libraries	LISTA; Library Literature & Information Science Index; Google Scholar	1996	Dominican University in River Forest	1092-7441	UNIV	Reject: Low Score	United States