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Altmetric Analysis of Library and Information Science Journals Published in India

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Abstract - **The present research examines the altmetric presence in the Indian journals published within the discipline of Library and Information Science (LIS). The population consists of scholarly articles published in Indian LIS journals, which are currently indexed on the Web of Science (WoS) from 2005 to 2023. Citations of scholarly articles were obtained from the WoS database, and the Altmetric Attention Score (AAS) was obtained using Altmetric Explorer. Three Indian LIS journals were identified, which are currently indexed on the WoS with an aggregate total of 1350 scholarly articles with Digital Object Identifier. Out of 1350 scholarly articles, 202 (14.96%) had an AAS. Popular altmetrics data sources were also studied, where X (Twitter) was the famous media channel where scholarly articles from Indian LIS journals were mentioned. Mendeley readership and citations from the Dimensions database were also analysed to know the varied aspects of research published in selected journals. Pearson correlation analysis displays a weakly positive relationship between citations and AAS, showing that altmetric attention and conventional citations represent complementary characteristics of research impact. The originality of this research exists in its unique focus on WoS-listed Indian LIS journals by evaluating year-wise and journal-wise trends, choosing relevant altmetric sources, and assessing the correlationship between citation counts, AAS, and Mendeley readership. By examining a specific geographic area and a disciplinary context, this research fills a notable gap and adds original insights into the societal visibility and academic influence of Indian LIS publications.**

Keywords: **Altimetrics, Indian LIS Journals, Scholarly Articles, Citations, Web of Science**

I. INTRODUCTION

In the current digital age, scholarly communication has grown rapidly with a significant transformation. The influence of academic research cannot only be measured using traditional methods like citation counts and journal impact factor (Miri, 2016). However, with the emergence of various online platforms and the increasing accessibility of different research outputs, the prospects of scholarly communication expand. This leads to the need for alternative methods of examining the visibility and influence of scholarly products. In response to this rapid growth, alternative metrics popularly known as altmetrics have arisen as a new complementary way to evaluate the broader influence of academic work more dynamically and completely. Altmetrics considers various social media engagements and online activities happening around the scholarly world. Altmetrics can be broadly defined as a set of metrics that measure and analyse the societal and academic impact of online attention that research outputs receive. Unlike conventional citation-based metrics which majorly take into account the academic research impact of scholarly publications, altmetrics take into consideration the broader spectrum and reach of research by including societal impact also. Altmetrics provides several benefits like an expanded spectrum of audiences, enhanced openness, greater level of speed, transparency, real-time data and simplified data collection through APIs. (Erfanmanesh, 2017) Altmetrics captures data from various digital media platforms which include social media, reference managers, policy documents, blogs, Wikipedia mentions, news outlets, online discussions and many more. They track and measure the range of activities, which includes downloads, saves, discussions, mentions, bookmarks, media coverage, etc (Nayak & Mathur, 2021). A broad range of audiences, which includes educators, academicians, professionals and the public in general, could be impacted by altmetrics. (Ali, 2021; National Information Standards Organization, 2016; Piwowar, 2013) By tracking a broader range of data sources, altmetrics provide a detailed and comprehensive understanding of how visibility and impact of research are being received, discussed and utilised in real-time. (Cronin & Sugimoto, 2014; Priem et al., 2011) defined altmetric as the "study and use of scholarly impact measures based on activity in online tools and environments" (Makhmaraimova et al., 2025).

II. SIGNIFICANCE

To disseminate and communicate the data, information and knowledge to the world, the Library and Information Science (LIS) is considered an important discipline. In this information technology age, many research and development activities are carried out in the LIS discipline to improve the services provided to the patrons. All these activities are published in current LIS publications from all over the globe. Many LIS journals published R&D activities carried out in

India and around the world to publicise the nascent research. Some Indian publications from the discipline of LIS have played a significant role in disseminating the nascent research conducted in the discipline. Overseeing the quality of the publications is the primary task, and to overcome this problem, the WoS platform is used worldwide to preserve academic integrity and quality. Hence, journals published in India and listed in the WoS are studied in this research. Research published in Indian journals listed in WoS has enormous value in the academic fraternity of LIS (Poornimadarshini et al., 2024). This altmetric analysis is essential to evaluate the societal influence of research published in Indian LIS journals.

While previous research studies majorly emphasised Western-focused or abroad LIS journals, this research is one of the few that especially studies Indian LIS journals using altmetric indicators. Furthermore, this research provides a complete assessment of the attention received from social media from various platforms and evaluates the existence of Web of Science-indexed Indian LIS research in worldwide online discussions, which has not been discussed in detail in earlier studies (Mohajer, 2017; Altmetric, 2011; Xue, 2024).

III. Review Of Related Literature

Priem et al. (2010) proposed the term 'Altmetrics' in the Altmetrics manifesto. According to the authors, to choose the most important source from the scholarly literature, the academic community uses filters. Cave, (2013) overviewed the altmetrics and their landscape and opined that shortly, altmetrics will be used to identify the impact of research in broader terms. Dutta, (2014) detailed the journey of metrics from librametry to altmetrics. Many metric studies emerged and developed in the twentieth century, which include librametrics, bibliometrics, scientometrics, biometrics, informetrics, sociometrics, econometrics, technometrics, psychometrics, educametrics, etc. (Tattersall, 2017) examined the potential that altmetrics present to librarians and information specialists in the context of providing research assistance. Abbasi, (2018) used altmetrics in his master's thesis research to track the importance of Swedish LIS research publications. This study looked at the influence and altmetrics coverage of LIS publications that Swedish universities produced between 2013 and 2017. (Sutton et al., 2018) tried to emphasise that altmetrics monitor the attention given to research through press, social media and other non-traditional channels. Yang & Dawson, (2018) examined how altmetrics may be used to evaluate digital libraries. The influence of digital material on grant applications and award nominations is now often measured using altmetrics. Verma & Madhusudhan, (2019) stated that altmetrics are one of the latest tools used in LIS to highlight scholarly content. AAS and citations of highly cited works from the term from the countries India and Brazil obtained between 1989 and 2017 were correlated by researchers. Thelwall, (2020) examined the benefits and drawbacks of employing altmetrics in research evaluation. Rangaswamy & Babu, (2021) used Altmetric Attention Score and citations to do a correlational comparison study of the best papers published in library and information science publications. (Torres-Salinas et al., 2022) conducted a cross-country assessment of altmetrics coverage in 22 areas of study between Spain and a sample of 16 nations (the EU-15 and the US). For this analysis, all Spanish papers published between 2016 and 2020 that were indexed in WoS were taken into account. Khatale & Raut, (2023) examined an altmetric presence in the literature published by the journal DJLIT and found that out of the total research papers listed on WoS, only 4.71% of research papers had an Altmetric Attention Score. (Hosseini & Falsafi, 2023) researched journal-level altmetrics studies in the field of Oncology. The primary motive of the research was to study the correlation between citation-based indicators of the journal and altmetrics indicators and to find which journal in the field of Oncology had the highest coverage of altmetrics and social media attention (Kumar et al., 2024). Devanath & Kumar, (2024) assessed the digital Influence of Social Science Research funded by India using Altmetrics indicators. Researchers researched the correlation between alternative metrics score and citations of scholarly articles and evaluated the altmetrics attention of open-access v/s closed-access publications. (Erkmen et al., 2025) studied the interrelation between the citations and Altmetric Attention Scores of scholarly articles published in the J Craniofac Surg. Researchers explored the Dimensions database and selected 17, 232 research papers published from 1990 to 2025. Moreover, they found that altmetrics can be used as complementary techniques to conventional citation-based metrics. (Hussain et al., 2025) studied how sleep journals are impacted by social media by examining the relation between Altmetrics mentions and citations. A weak but statistically significant positive correlationship was observed between citation counts and Altmetric Attention Score.

IV. Objectives

1. To analyse the journal-wise and year-wise allocation of scholarly articles, citations and Altmetric Attention Score that Indian LIS journals received.

2. To identify the highly used altmetric data sources to share research published in Indian LIS Journals.

3. To find out the number of Mendeley readers and the number of Dimensions citations that Indian LIS journals received.

4. To investigate the correlation between Citations and Altmetric Attention Score of scholarly articles published in Indian LIS Journals.

V. Scope And Limitations

The scope of the research was limited to the journals published in Library and Information Science from India, which were indexed under the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of the WoS core collection. The search query was limited to articles published between 2005 to 2023, with Digital Object Identifier being run in WoS. All other types of documents that are indexed in the WoS like Reviews,

Biographical Items, Proceedings Papers, Early Access, Retracted Publications, Book Reviews, Art Exhibit Reviews, Database Review, Software Reviews, Editorial Materials, Letters, Corrections, Retractions, Hardware Review, News Item, Bibliography, etc. were excluded from this study.

VI. Materials And Methods

A quantitative method was adopted for this study. All statistical data of journals were collected through structured observation by reviewing the Web of Science and Altmetric Explorer databases.

Data Sources

The most reputable publisher-independent international citation database is the Web of Science (WoS). This database is an extensively robust search engine, offering exceptional publication data for assured discovery, evaluation and access. It is guided by the renowned scientist Dr. Eugene Garfield. (Web of Science, 2023)

Altmetric.com is a digital science organization with an aim to monitor and evaluate the online engagement associated with academic research outputs. (Altmetric, 2024)

Data Collection

Data were collected in two types;

Primary Data

The primary bibliographic data of scholarly articles published in LIS, particularly from India, were retrieved from the WoS core collection by using ESCI, as the related journals are indexed in ESCI. The ESCI started from the year 2005; therefore, the period of this study was from the year 2005 to 2023. To retrieve the primary data, a WoS database was thoroughly searched, and four journals originally published in India and currently listed in WoS were found. The journal "Annals of Library and Information Studies" was listed in WoS; however, sufficient altimetric data from this journal was not available, therefore, the journal was excluded from this research. A structured query was run in WoS with the following fields with tags to get the bibliographic data of three journals:

- DOI (DO): 10.*
- Document Type (DT): Article
- Date of Publication (DOP): 01-01-2005 to 25-12-2023
- Publication Title (SO): "Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management or DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology or Journal of Scientometric Research"

((DO=(10.*)) and DT=(Article)) and DOP=(2005-01-01/2023-12-25) and (SO==(Collnet Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management or Desidoc Journal of Library Information Technology or Journal of Scientometric Research))

1350 bibliographic records of scholarly articles were retrieved by executing the above query in the advanced search option of WoS. The query was run on 25th December 2023, and all the data was collected on the same date (Table I).

TABLE I BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS WITH JOURNAL TITLES RETRIEVED FROM WOS

Journal Title	Count of Scholarly Articles	Percentage
COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management	317	23.48%
DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology	717	53.12%
Journal of Scientometric Research	316	23.40%
Total	1350	100%

Secondary Data

The retrieved primary bibliographic data of 1350 scholarly articles from WoS were checked in the Altmetric Explorer. All the DOIs of scholarly articles were added in the 'scholarly identifiers' search box available in the 'advanced search' option of Altmetric Explorer to retrieve the details of scholarly articles tracked by altmetric.com. Out of 1350 scholarly articles retrieved from WoS (Table II), 242 articles (17.93%) are tracked by altmetric.com, out of which 202 articles (14.96%) received at least one AAS. All the details of the 202 articles tracked by altmetric.com were saved, and the analysis of data was performed by using Microsoft Excel.

TABLE II ALTMETRIC TRACKING DETAILS

Scholarly Articles from Web of Science	Scholarly Articles Tracked by Altmetric	Scholarly Articles with Attention
1350	242 (17.93%)	202 (14.96%)

source: altmetric.com

VII. Data Analysis And Results

The retrieved data was further analysed to get the results of the research.

Journal-wise Allocation of Scholarly Articles, Citations, and Altmetric Attention Score

Fig. 1 demonstrates the journal-wise allocation of Scholarly Articles (SA), Citations (CT), and Altmetric Attention Score of the Indian journals published in LIS. Scholarly articles with highest number of AAS was published in the "Journal of Scientometric Research" (AAS=382, SA=139, CT=358), followed by "DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology" (AAS=113, SA=30, CT=128) and "COLLNET

Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management" (AAS=62, SA=33, CT=216). The most influential scholarly article in terms of citation was published in "The DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology" (CT=77), and the most influential scholarly article in terms of AAS was published in "The Journal of Scientometric Research" (AAS=15).

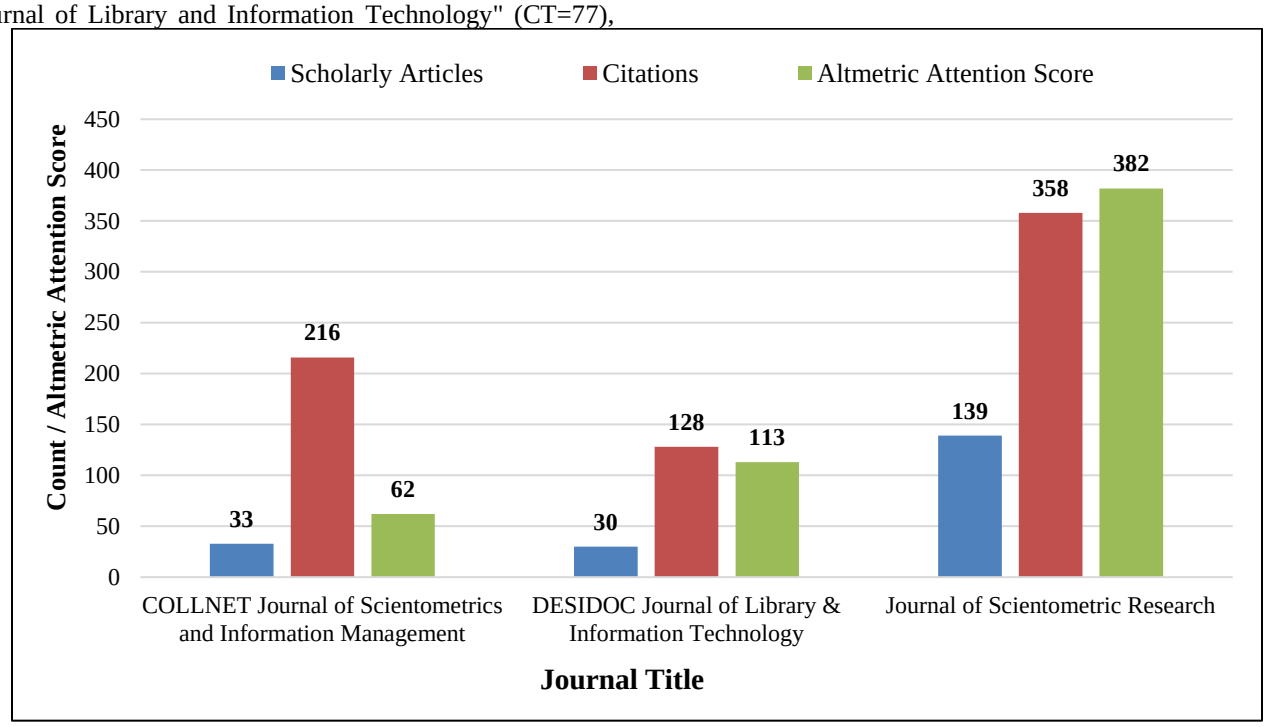

Fig. 1 Journal-wise allocation of Scholarly Articles, Citations, and Altmetric Attention Score (source: altmetric.com)

Year-wise allocation of Scholarly Articles, Citations, and Altmetric Attention Score

Fig. 2 demonstrates the year-by-year allocation of scholarly articles, citations, and AAS of the WoS-indexed Indian journals published in LIS between 2005 to 2023. The total number of 202 scholarly articles received 702 citations and 557 total AAS. Out of 202 scholarly articles, most of them were published in 2021 (SA=51), followed by 2020 (SA=36) and 2019 (SA=23). Out of 702 total citations, the scholarly articles published in 2008 were superior (CT=127), followed by 2021 (CT=121) and 2020 (CT=102). In terms of a total of 557 AAS, the scholarly articles published in 2021 were more dominant (AAS=147), followed by 2020 (AAS=94) and 2018 & 2019 (AAS=61) as both the years received the same AAS.

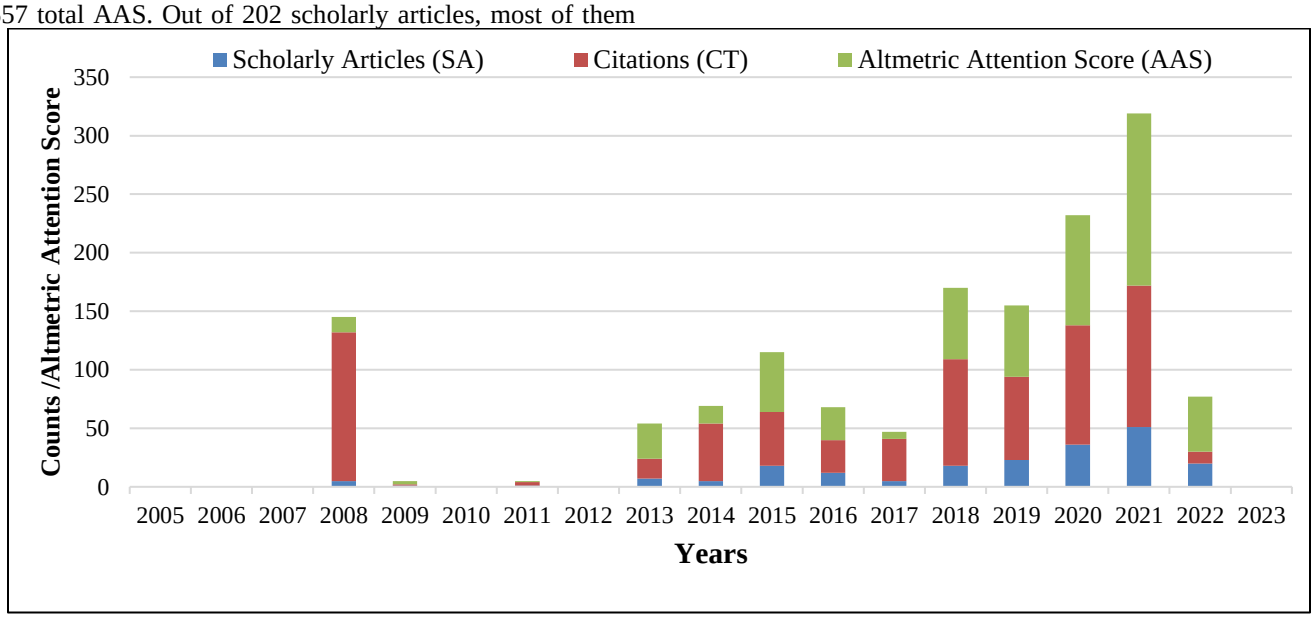

Fig. 2 Year-wise allocation of Scholarly Articles, Citations, and Altmetric Attention Score (source: altmetric.com)

Highly Used Altmetric Data Sources

Table III and Fig. 3 show the highly used altmetric data sources to share the research published in Indian LIS journals. Altmetric tracked seventeen data sources to get the digital footprints of research published, including various social media platforms, mass media platforms, academic sources, policies, and patents etc. The tracked scholarly articles were mentioned 2 times in the News. Likewise, Blog (n=11), Policy (n=1), Patent (n=4), X (Twitter) (n=764), Peer review (n=1), Facebook (n=21), Wikipedia (n=15) and Google+ (n=5). Out of seventeen data sources, only nine received altmetric attention. It was noticed that the famous social media tool X (Twitter) (92.72%) was a highly used altmetric data source to share research published in Indian LIS journals. The next highest data sources were Facebook (2.53%) and Wikipedia (1.82%).

TABLE III HIGHLY USED ALTMETRIC DATA SOURCES

Years	News	Blog	Policy	Patent	X (Twitter)	Peer Review	Facebook	Wikipedia	Google+
2013	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
2014	0	1	0	0	10	0	5	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0	31	0	9	2	0
2016	0	0	0	1	49	0	3	2	3
2017	0	1	0	0	12	0	0	1	0
2018	0	3	0	0	79	0	1	0	2
2019	0	4	0	1	75	0	2	4	0
2020	0	1	0	1	178	0	0	2	0
2021	0	1	0	0	245	1	1	1	0
2022	2	0	1	1	72	0	0	2	0
2023	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	0
Total Mentions	**2**	**11**	**1**	**4**	**764**	**1**	**21**	**15**	**5**

(source: altmetric.com)

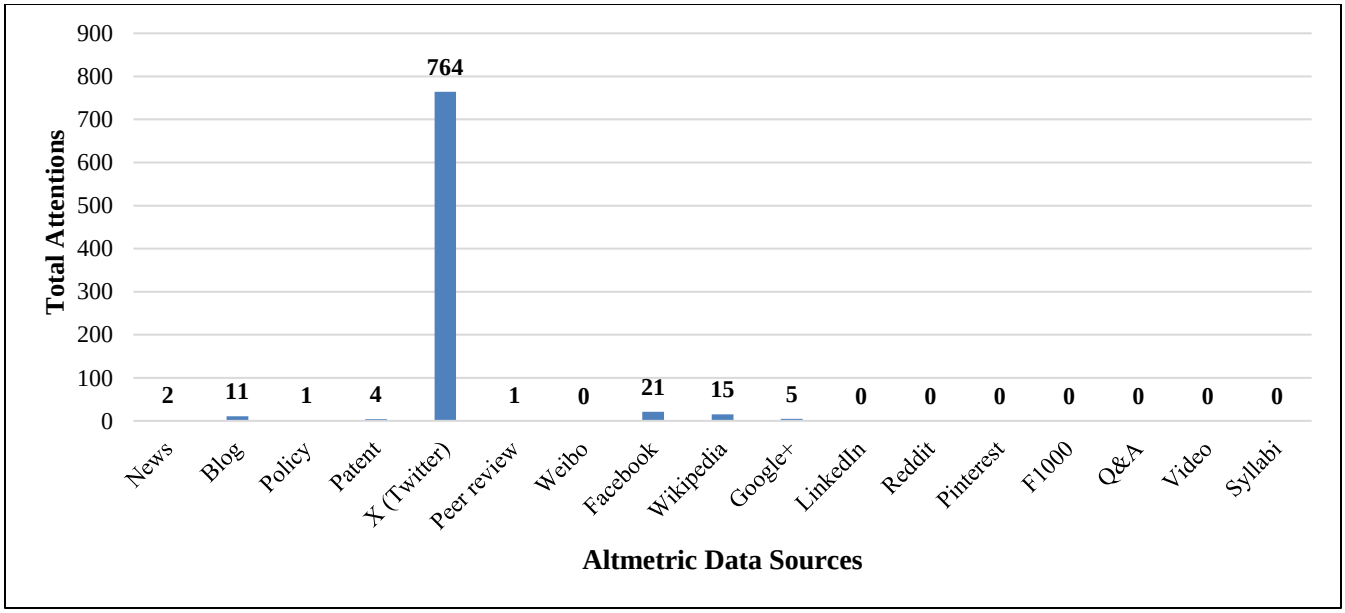

Fig. 3 Highly used Altmetric Data Sources (Source: Altmetric.Com)

Mendeley Readers

Out of the three Indian LIS journals, "Journal of Scientometric Research" (53%) got the highest number of Mendeley readers. "DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology" stood second (28%), followed by "COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management" (19%). (Fig. 4)

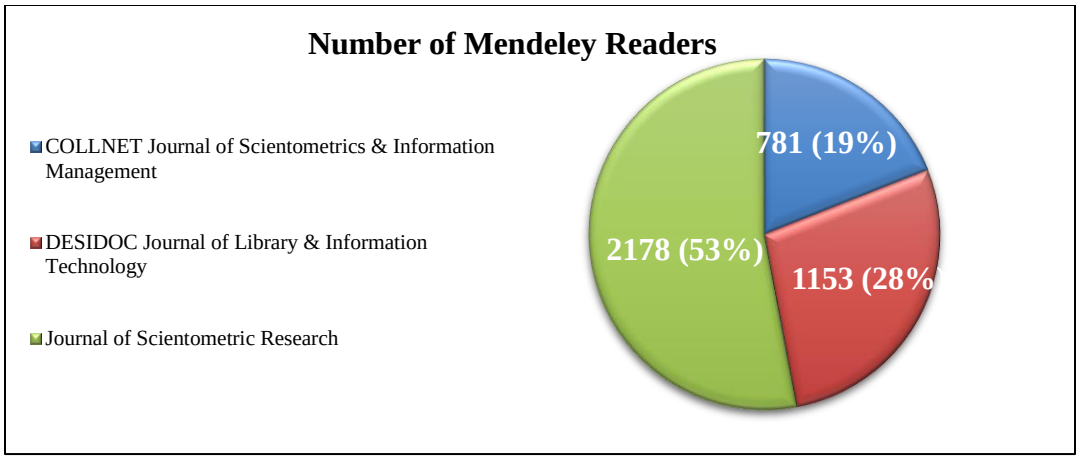

Fig. 4 Number of Mendeley Readers (Source: Altmetric.Com)

Dimensions Citations

As per the data displayed in Fig. 5, "Journal of Scientometric Research" (46%) got the highest citations in the Dimensions. "COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management" stood second (34%), followed by "DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology" (20%)

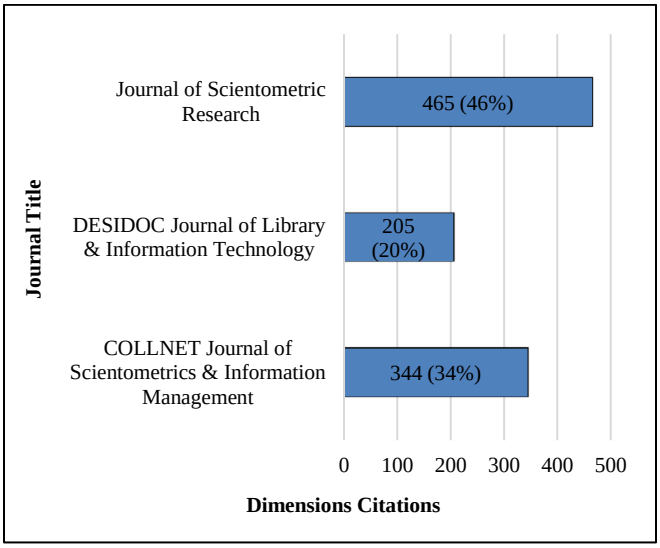

Fig. 5 Number of Dimensions Citations (source: altmetric.com)

Correlation between Citations and Altmetric Attention Score

The correlationship between citation counts of scholarly articles and AAS has received notable recognition in research carried out in academia. While article citation counts map the academic impact of research, AAS displays the online engagement an article receives. Through analysing the relationship between citations and AAS, researchers may determine whether online attention and engagement transfer into scholarly academic recognition. (Basumatary et al., 2023; Behal et al., 2022; Bornmann, 2014) The direction as well as the strength of the association between variables is displayed by correlational values. The connection between citations and Altmetric Attention Score was determined using Pearson correlation. -1.00 to 1.00 is the correlation range, where 0 denotes no correlation. (Liang et al., 2019) Tables IV, V, and VI give a comparative analysis of three scholarly Indian journals from the Library and Information Science discipline. The primary aim was to look at the correlationship between the citation counts of scholarly articles that are published in these journals and the AAS. The correlationship between AAS and citation counts of scholarly articles related to the journal "COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics & Information Management" was identified as very weakly positive (r=0.005, p=0.977), and there was almost no correlation, as the value was near zero. This suggests that AAS might not be a reliable indicator of citation effect (Table IV).

TABLE IV CORRELATION BETWEEN AAS AND CITATIONS OF "COLLNET JOURNAL OF SCIENTOMETRICS & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT"

Particulars		Citation	AAS
Citation	Pearson correlation	1	0.005
	Significance (2-tailed)		0.977
	Number of Scholarly Articles	33	33
AAS	Pearson correlation	0.005	1
	Significance (2-tailed)	0.977	
	Number of Scholarly Articles	33	33

Likewise, the correlationship between AAS and citation counts of scholarly articles from "DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology" was identified as very weakly positive (r=0.028, p=0.880) as the value was near zero, showing that there was almost no correlation between the two variables. (Table V)

TABLE V CORRELATION BETWEEN AAS AND CITATIONS OF "DESIDOC JOURNAL OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY"

Particulars		Citation	AAS
Citation	Pearson correlation	1	0.028
	Significance (2-tailed)		0.880
	Number of Scholarly Articles	30	30
AAS	Pearson correlation	0.028	1
	Significance (2-tailed)	0.880	
	Number of Scholarly Articles	30	30

The interconnection of AAS and citations received by scholarly research from "The Journal of Scientometric Research" was very weak (r=0.101, p=0.236) as the p-value does not support any correlation. The results show a weak alignment between the AAS and the citation counts, possibly due to the various elements that impact each metric's calculation and the multiple ways each measures academic and societal influence. (Table VI)

Table VI CORRELATION BETWEEN AAS AND CITATIONS OF "JOURNAL OF SCIENTOMETRIC RESEARCH"

Particulars		Citation	AAS
Citation	Pearson correlation	1	0.101
	Significance (2-tailed)		0.236
	Number of Scholarly Articles	139	139
AAS	Pearson correlation	0.101	1
	Significance (2-tailed)	0.236	
	Number of Scholarly Articles	139	139

Reasons for Divergence

The correlational value of all three Indian LIS journals shows that there is a very weakly positive relationship between AAS and citations of scholarly articles, which indicates that citation-influencing factors and AAS-influencing factors are probably different, and one cannot predict the other with any sort of correctness. This divergence includes various factors that influence the AAS and citation counts of scholarly articles. Many Indian LIS researchers still do not rely on this new form of metrics to evaluate research that gets mentions from various digital platforms like X (Twitter), Policy documents, or Wikipedia, which may not align with the LIS subjects that are regularly cited within academic publications. While social media attentions act as an earlier predictor for citations, however, the attention is significantly weaker than the time since research was published, which suggests altmetric mentions may display quick engagement rather than lasting academic influence. (Behel et al., 2025) Venkatesh & Suresh Babu outlined a lower degree of positive relationship within AAS and citation counts among highly cited articles, stating that while there exists some positive relationship between both metrics, however, it remains weak. (Venkatesh & BK, 2024). Inconsistent correlation patterns were noted by Ezema & Ugwu. They observed growing altmetric attention in the studied LIS journals however, citation counts exhibit differences in correlation. They measure the impact across LIS subfields where audience involvement may vary notably from conventional academic citation practices. These divergences could affect the particular interests of the LIS fraternity. (Ezema & Ugwu, 2019) In short, the possible factors influencing the weakly positive relationship between AAS and citation counts in LIS publications can be the diversified measuring parameters of altmetrics and citations, the varied type of audiences of LIS research, and the influence of the period since publication. This divergence pointed out the crucial need for researchers in the LIS discipline to consider not only traditional metrics but also newer altmetrics to understand varied aspects of research impact.

VIII. Discussion And Findings

This study investigated the altmetric presence of Indian journals published in Library and Information Science and currently listed in the WoS. Out of the three Indian journals considered in this study, "DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology" (53.12%) has the maximum number of scholarly articles listed in WoS. Likewise, "Journal of Scientometric Research" (AAS=382) has the highest AAS for its scholarly publications. Regarding the year-by-year allocation of scholarly articles, citations, and AAS, most of the scholarly articles (SA=51) were published in 2021. In the year 2008, LIS journals received the highest citations (CT=127) for their scholarly publications, and in the year 2021, scholarly articles received the highest Altmetric Attention Score (AAS=147). Scholarly research has been disseminated through a range of media platforms and sources, such as academic sources, social media sites, reference management systems, patent and policy documents, etc. LIS journals published in India have received attention from nine altmetric data sources. 202 of 1350 scholarly articles from all three Indian LIS journals received at least one mention of altmetric data sources. X (Twitter) provided the most altmetric data for Indian LIS journals, followed by Facebook mentions. Except for X (Twitter) (92.72%), the results showcased that the existence of altmetric data on other data sources was very low, as all other data sources, which include Facebook, Wikipedia, Blog, Google+, Patent, News, Policy, and Peer review, contributed only remaining 7.28%. Altmetric data sources like Weibo, Pinterest, Reddit, F1000, LinkedIn, Q&A, Syllabi, and Video did not receive even one altmetric attention for all the 202 scholarly articles from three Indian LIS journals tracked by altmetric.com.

Since it appears before citations, Mendeley's readership is an accurate indication of the early influence of scholarly publications. (Vysakh & Rajendra Babu, 2021). Mendeley is also an important source of altmetric data. Most Mendeley readers referred to scholarly publications from the "Journal of Scientometric Research", which got 53% of the total readership. Dimensions.ai is a gateway that grants entry to abstracts and citations of a varied range of scholarly research, its data, and analytics. The dimensions is a database and information platform for research that aggregates data and information regarding scholarly output, policy, funding, grants and patents. (Hook et al., 2018) Altmetric.com tracks Dimensions citation data along with various data sources, however, these citations are not a part of AAS. "Journal of Scientometric Research" (46%) has the highest number of citations on the Dimensions database. There is a very weakly positive correlation seen between citation counts and AAS of the scholarly articles published in selected LIS publications from India, which suggests that the traditional bibliometric citations and newly emerged online engagements through altmetrics are not meaningfully connected. While citations show the academic influence of scholarly research, altmetric attention highlights a wider view of how research is disseminated over online digital platforms. This study demonstrates the importance and development of altmetrics

to the scholarly world to assess the influence of research over conventional educational boundaries.

IX. Conclusion

The application of alternative metrics to Indian journals published in Library and Information Science gives a valuable understanding of the impact, reach, and engagement of scholarly publications in the discipline. By evaluating alternative metrics beyond conventional citation-based metrics, such as social media mentions, News mentions, downloads, online discussions, etc., research scholars gain more detailed insights into the wider influence of these journals. The study's findings not only contribute to the evaluation of the distribution of knowledge but also underscore the emerging landscape of scholarly communication in the digital world. Altmetric analysis turns out to be a crucial instrument for evaluating and investigating how academic research affects society. This study emphasised the importance of implementing varied types of metrics to assess the relevance and importance of Indian Journals published in LIS, encouraging a more detailed and comprehensive assessment of scholarly contributions within the discipline of LIS.

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Conflicts Of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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