

## Library & Information Science Research

*Library & Information Science Research (LISR)* was first published in 1979 under its former name *Library Research* with the mission to offer a journal that was dedicated to research conducted in the field of library and information sciences. The topics included: "discussions of research, the presentation of research findings, analyses of existing research, the identification of topics meriting investigation, and the identification and analysis of research designs, methods, and techniques" (Hernon & Schwartz, 1998, p. 309). Furthermore, the journal also intends to offer practical applications of the research when applicable. *LISR* has a readership that is predominantly American, but according to Hernon and Schwartz (2008), also sees frequent access from Australia, Canada, Iran, and Sweden. Given the breadth of research being conducted in the LIS field, the journal is geared towards not only librarians (of all varieties), but all information professionals, students of information science, and any profession in which library research would be of value. As an example to illustrate the multi-discipline nature of information science research, not all authors published in *LISR* are exclusively affiliated with libraries and also include the fields of "management, business, communications, psychology, and education" (Hernon & Schwartz, 1998, p. 315). *LISR* can be seen as a journal that seeks to aggregate research through the lens of various academic and professional disciplines to disseminate to an international market with the goal of showcasing current research in the information science field.

*LISR* is published by Elsevier publishing on a quarterly schedule. The publisher offers both print and electronic subscriptions to *LISR*; Electronic access to *LISR* is handled through the ScienceDirect database, and offers back issues to subscribers. Print subscription pricing varies based on affiliation, with institutions paying \$556 for a yearly subscription and personal print subscriptions (including iPad access) costing \$169 annually. *LISR* also contains editorials and

book reviews in addition to articles. Recent editorial topics include approaches to presenting information science research effectively, suggestions to researchers about what constitutes good or bad research, and hypotheses formation in research. Given the nature of the journal, books that are reviewed tend to be focused on published library research. These two sections serve the readership by providing critique of research being conducted in the field, and offering advice to researchers to further promote novel research and good research techniques.

One important aspect of *LISR* to note is its use of a double-blind peer reviewing process for publication. In the field of research, studies that are conducted with double-blind methods are usually seen as having more validity, and since *LISR* aims to be associated with research within the LIS field, it is natural that a double-blind peer review process would be in use. The journal goes to great lengths to ensure that the identities of article authors remain unknown to the reviewers, sometimes even editing out information that may reveal the author's identity to the reviewers (Hernon & Schwartz, 2003). The use of double-blind peer reviewing helps ensure that article submissions are evaluated purely based on content and not influenced by affiliation or author reputation. In this way, the articles published in *LISR* can be taken to be free of the politics of the field and instead focused objectively on the research presented. With its thorough review process, *LISR* has a current impact factor of 1.4, with a five year impact factor of 1.52 placing it amongst the top journals in the field.

The value of *LISR* lies in the research topics it publishes. Recent research topics covered in *LISR* spans across the whole of information science: Information literacy, cultural impacts on information use, information retrieval in academic settings, and the increasing role of technology in library and information science. With its wide array of topics covered, *LISR* effectively meets its goal of providing research information to information professionals of all kinds. Further

bolstered by its commitment to objectivity through double-blind peer review, *LISR* reinforces itself as a journal with research at its core, which is meets the needs of a research focused audience.

## References

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