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Dr. Babu g. Gholap

(M.A.Mar.& Pol.Sci.,B.Ed.Ph.D.NET.)



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harshwardhanpubli@gmail.com, vidyawarta@gmail.com

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Open Access E Books on Library and Information Science: An Analytical Study Through DOAB

Dr. Anita Chandwani

Librarian

Rajkumar Kewalramani Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur

Abstract -

The availability of open access e-books through platforms such as the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) has made it easier for researchers and students to access academic literature. In the present study data was collected online from DOAB website form 2001-2022 about e books available on the subject Library and Information Science. In the study the e-books are divided author wise, license wise, language wise, year wise, and pagination wise for better understanding of the results. The result showed that there is need to create awareness amongst content writers and publishers in library science field to contribute more on this platform.

Keywords- DOAB; Open access; E-books; Open access e-books; Library and Information Science

Introduction -

With the drastic development in information communication technology, things changed. The world is transformed into global village where all the documents are available in electronic format to everyone with the help of internet. The creation of worldwide web means to access anything, anywhere, anytime i.e. 24/7. With the help of technology, access is being allowed to both public and private resources very effectively and efficiently. Now a day's online resources are in great demand

specially after the face of Covid 19 pandemic from private to higher education levels all resources are available online at very nominal cost. There is huge amount of electronic resources available free and open to all. These open access resources provide opportunities to authors researchers, societies and general public to share their thoughts with the world. One of the such open access is e books. Books in this digital environment are playing a vital role in day to day life of students, researchers and general public.

Open access e-books are electronic books that are freely available online for anyone to access and read. These books are typically published under open access licenses, which allow for free distribution and reuse of the content. Open access e-books are becoming increasingly popular in the academic world, as they provide a more cost-effective and accessible alternative to traditional print books.

They can be easily accessed and downloaded from the internet, allowing for greater access to knowledge and research. Open access e-books can also be more interactive, with features such as multimedia, hyperlinks, and search capabilities. By making research and knowledge freely available, open access e-books are helping to break down barriers to access and promote greater collaboration in the academic community.

Electronic books, commonly referred to as e-books, are digital versions of traditional printed books that can be read on electronic devices such as computers, tablets, and e-readers. E-books are becoming increasingly popular due to their convenience and accessibility, as they can be easily downloaded and stored on a variety of devices, making it easy to carry a large library with you wherever you go

One of the main benefits of e-books is that they offer a eco-friendlier alternative to printed books, as they do not require the use of paper and ink. They also often cost less than

print books, as the cost of production and distribution is lower. In addition, e-books can be searchable and interactive, allowing for features such as highlighting, annotating, and hyperlinks. There are different formats of e-books, including PDF, EPUB, and Kindle, and different e-book readers support different formats. E-books can be purchased from online retailers such as Amazon, or they can be borrowed from libraries through digital lending services.

E-books are not just limited to traditional novels and non-fiction works. There is a growing trend of academic publishing in the form of open access e-books, which provide free and open access to peer-reviewed research and scholarly work.

E-books are a convenient and accessible form of reading that is changing the way people access and consume information. With their eco-friendly nature, cost-effectiveness, and interactive features, e-books are becoming a popular alternative to traditional print books.

Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)

Directory of Open Access Books DOAB is a discovery service for open access books. It is an online platform that provides access to thousands of peer-reviewed academic books from a range of publishers. DOAB aims to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access books and to provide a single point of access for users to search and browse books that have been made available through open access. The directory is maintained by the Open Access Publishing in European Networks (OAPEN) Foundation and is supported by the European Union and other funding bodies.

DOAB was established by the Open Access Publishing in European Networks (OAPEN) Foundation and is supported by the European Union and other funding bodies. It currently hosts over 22,000 books from a range of academic publishers, and the collection continues to grow.

The DOAB platform is designed to be user-friendly and provides a number of features

to help users discover and access open access books. Users can search for books by keyword, subject, or publisher, and they can also browse the directory by subject or publisher. In addition, DOAB provides detailed information about each book, including its abstract, table of contents, and author information

One of the main benefits of DOAB is that it provides a centralized location for users to access open access books, rather than having to search for them on individual publisher websites. This makes it easier for users to find the books they need and to keep up-to-date with the latest open access books in their field

Hence we can say that DOAB is a valuable resource for anyone interested in open access publishing and for anyone looking for access to high-quality academic books. The platform provides a centralized and user-friendly way to discover and access open access books, and it is expected to continue to grow and evolve in the coming years.

Literature Survey –

Whiteford in a general review provides a detailed note on Directory of Open Access Books Like its establishment, history, growth, policy, vacuity of books, current trends, availability and its services.

Snijder demonstrates the advanced impact of open access studies circulated through DOAB at Amsterdam University Press(AUP). Researcher revealed that, for AUP, the DOAB platform is veritably useful tool for promoting Open Access books.

Dhanavandan paper discusses a global analysis of open access books, which are available in the Directory of Open Access Books. The author set up that, many of the libraries as well as publishers are contributing to the open access products like DOAB. Dhanavandan in an analytical paper elicits the availability of open access books which are accessible in the Directory of Open Access Books.

Dhanavandan&Tamizhchelvan, Chakr -

abarti and Mandal, Karak& Mandal, Khanchandani & Kumar studied the current trends of open access books that are available on DOAB on various subjects and it's apparent from their studies that e-books on social science and science and technology is increasing rapidly with a collaborative end in wide exposure of different subjects under case study, that are substantially written in English language with minimum contribution from Indian publishers, the content format is in interoperable metadata format, it's to be noted that most of the books don't come under any license of creative commons and they've also suggested for proper indexing and infrastructural system in DOAB and scope for further study so as to ground the gap of resource sharing by limiting the responsibilities .

Literature on DOAB often discusses its role in promoting open access and increasing the visibility of open access books. The benefits of DOAB include greater discoverability of open access books, improved accessibility to knowledge, and increased opportunities for collaboration and reuse of information.

Studies have shown that DOAB has been successful in increasing the visibility of open access books and has become an important resource for scholars and researchers. The platform has been well received by the academic community and has been praised for its user-friendly interface and comprehensive coverage of open access books. Overall, the literature on DOAB highlights its importance as a tool for advancing open access and increasing access to knowledge. The platform has been successful in fulfilling its goal of promoting open access and providing a comprehensive directory of academic peer-reviewed books.

Scope of the Study -

The present study covers the open access e-books available in DOAB and the study is restricted to only to the subject Library and Information Science and covers books that are indexed in the database from the year 2001 to

month of December 2022.

Methodology:

All e-books on subject "Library and Information Science" were identified by searching through DOAB database. The retrieved results highlighted 85 full text e-books published in and around the world. Then each e-book was assessed for bibliographic data collection like year of publication, authorship pattern degree of collaboration, author productivity, type of publication, use of languages, length of books, license given, extent of citation in nine different structured tables. Google Scholar has been considered for checking the citation status of the e-books. The raw data were collected, stored, organized and presented separately in MS-Excel which was followed by tabulation, analysis and interpretation.

The study is limited to the e-books of Library and Information Science which are accessible through DOAB only. The study has been carried out with the following objectives:

- To find out the year wise distribution and growth
- To find out authorship pattern
- To find out publishers who are actively involved in DOAB

- To study the language wise distribution
- To examine the different licensing pattern
- To study the volume of the works published through amount of pages.

Analysis and interpretation of data -

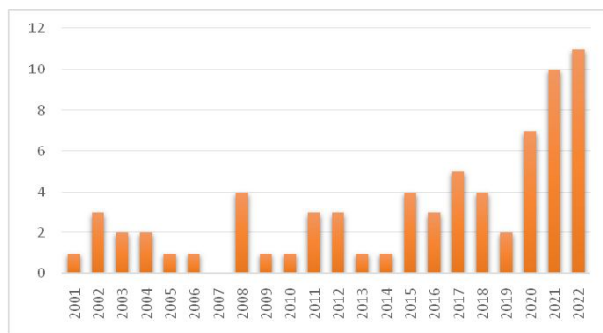


Figure 1: Year wise growth of e-books

Figure 1 describes the year wise distribution and growth of e-books in the subject Library and Information Science. The study found

only 85 e-books during a span of 22 years. It is clear from the table that the growth rate is regular for the first 16 years then an abrupt increase in publications is found for the corresponding years in 2020, 21 and 2022.

Authorship Pattern-

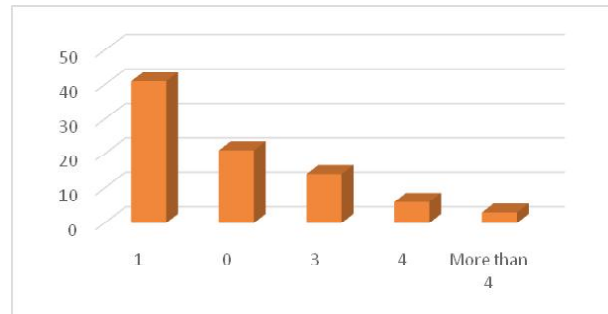


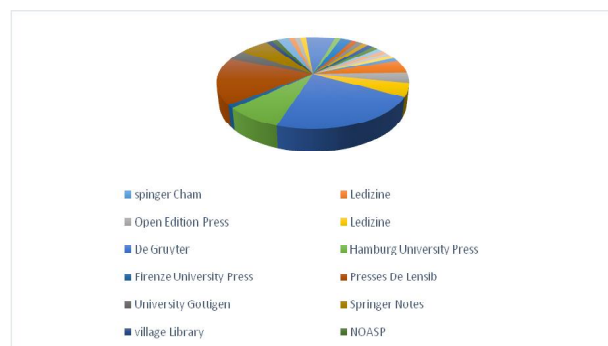
Fig. 2 Authorship Pattern

The data presented in Table 2 reveals that, the maximum numbers of e-books on DOAB are contributed by single authors i.e.41 (48%) followed by Two authors 21 (24.07%), Three authors 14 (16.47%) and more than Three authors 9 (10.58%). It shows that maximum number of books are written by single author i.e. 48%. Single authorship is predominant.

Table 1. Authorship pattern

Sr. No.	Author	No. of E books	% of E books
1	Single	41	48
2	Two	21	24.07
3	Three	14	16.47
4	More than Three	09	10.58
	Total	85	100

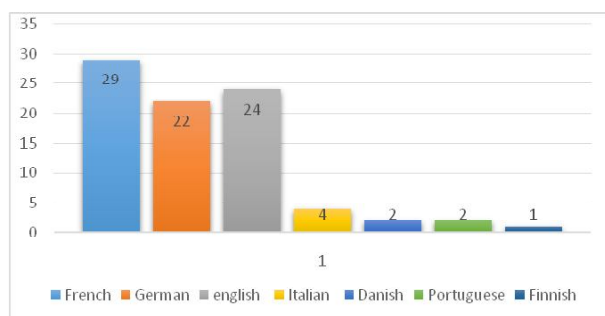
Figure 3: Publisher wise distribution of e-books



The notable feature of Figure 3 of publisher wise distribution of e-books shows that majority of the books are published by De Gruyter, followed by Presse De Lensib, Ledizine, Open Edition Press and others.

Language- wise distribution of e books

Fig. 4 :Language- wise distribution of e books



In Figure 4, it is found that a maximum number of books (34%) have been published in French language, then English (28%) Very few books have been published in other languages like German, Spanish etc

Pagination Trends

Pagination	No. of E-Books	% of E-Books
50-100	3	3.52
101-200	23	27.06
201-300	25	29.41
301-400	13	15.29
401-500	6	7.06
More than 500	6	7.08
No Pages Found	9	10.58
Total	85	100

Table 2 Pagination Trends

The pagination of e-books shows that, 29.41 % of e-books have 201-300 pages 27.06 % have 101-200 pages and 15.29 % e-books has 301-400 pages whereas 10.58 % don't depict the total number of pages. It shows that, e-books

are available on DOAB are properly structured and well documented e-books. This indicates that the trend of the length of publications is not voluminous enough and is short and precise.

Licenses Distribution -

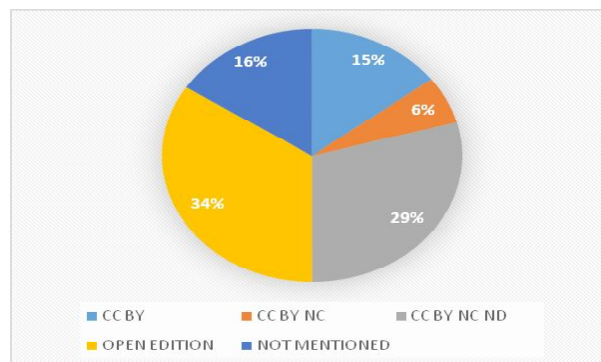


Fig. 5 Licenses Distribution

This Figure 5 clearly indicates that use of books on Library and Information Science is strictly restricted for modifications commercial use by the highest percentage of open edition license attribute i.e. 34% and it is to be noted that 29% books are permitted for sharing and distribution in CC BY ND license, of its word for word duplicates in blending, testing and joint distribution giving a sign of greatest utilization of open access books on Library and Information Science.

Findings:

1. Investigating the outcomes, it is obvious from the review that, the collection of e-books on Library and Information has consistent growth on DOAB from the year 2001-16 and is showing little rapid growth in 2021,2022.

2. The content creation on Library and Information Science is mainly contributed by single author i.e. single contributions are given more emphasis than on collaborative works.

3. The Social Science e-books are published in different languages, majority in French, followed by English and German, Spanish, Italian and others. It shows that e books on DOAB can arrive at more extensive populace across the world on the grounds that these are the significant languages in the world.

4. Contribution of foreign publisher is at large scale whereas involvement of Indian publishers is nil that widens the scope for further research.

5. The pagination analysis shows that, e-books are of various sizes, though the majority of E-books , 201-300 pages whereas 10% don't depict the total number of pages.

Conclusion–

Open access has been a game-changer for the library and research communities, providing greater access to information and resources. By making research and scholarly articles freely available online, open access has made it easier for researchers and scholars to find the information they need, regardless of where they are located or what type of library they have access to. Open access has been a positive force in promoting knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation in the field of research and scholarship. The Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) is a platform that serves as a central directory of open access books, providing a comprehensive listing of scholarly books that are freely available online. DOAB is designed to promote open access publishing and make it easier for researchers and scholars to find high-quality, peer-reviewed open access books in a range of subjects. The platform allows publishers to submit their open access books for inclusion in the directory, and it provides researchers with a single, searchable database of open access books that they can use to discover and access new research in their field. By centralizing information about open access books and making it easily accessible, DOAB helps to increase visibility and accessibility of open access books and support the growth of the open access publishing movement.

This further augments the degree and area of investigation of exploration for all disciplines as the use of Library and Information Science is broad for subjects that are developing consistently. but it is very unfortunate that only a handful number of e-books on library and

information science are available. Despite this, libraries and information centers are increasingly embracing Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 technologies, which are transforming the way that they generate, handle, and disseminate digital resources. Publishers and authors have an important role to play in ensuring the proper manifestation of e books in library and information science. By publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed open access books and articles on the subject, they can help to promote knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation in the field.

Platforms like the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and the Directory of Open Access Repositories (DOAR) can be invaluable tools for publishers and authors in promoting their work and reaching a wider audience. By submitting their work to these directories, they can increase the visibility and accessibility of their research and ensure that it reaches a wider audience of scholars, researchers, and practitioners in the field of library and information science.

Specially from Indian Perspective, Indian authors have great scope to scatter their research worldwide through this platform of DOAB. There is need to create awareness amongst content writers and publishers to contribute more on this platform. More directories like DOAB could be created even in specific disciplines. Issues like copyright, plagiarism, preservation of documents and technological problems to increase the number of contributions. the most important part is to provide easy accessibility and identifying the issues concerning to deposition of e books faced by contributors.

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Dr. Babu g Gholap
Chief Editor



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vidyawarta@gmail.com
www.vidyawarta.com



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