

## Information Seeking Behaviours of Research Scholars in SRTMU, Nanded

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### Abstract

The main purpose of the article is to investigate that the information-seeking behaviour of the research scholars. The study also considered identified their information needs and user awareness regarding that the KRC services, and the importance and objective of the information-seeking behaviour delivered by the central library of the university. The scholars have assessed the information and information-seeking behavior of research scholars, their preference and view on the e-resources, and providing many consortiums service. Information and communication technology has been changed in the digital era of the learning environment at all stages of educations. The information-seeking behavior of the readers or users in almost all multidisciplinary studies. This study presents a survey on the information-seeking digital e-resources and printed media use in SRTMU Nanded University.

This article has been presented on the Knowledge Resource Center (KRC) clientele of the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Library. The university was established in 1994 and is now one of the largest universities in Marathwada and different offering educational courses of study in almost all subjects of knowledge through all departments. The university has been NAAC accredited with A in the southern region. The university has 14 schools on campus, 4 schools at sub-campus Latur, Parbhani, Hingoli, and Nanded. The library witnessed showing changes in its role as an information provider and it's a leader in the Marathwada region after the digitization of e-contents, networking of its departments, and subscription of e-databases and has been declared as the best amongst all research scholars and faculty members.

**Keywords:** Information, Seeking, information Seeking Behaviour, Research Scholar, SRTMUN, Library.

### Introduction

The recent era is an era of information and communication technology. Information is the key issue in the information age. The real challenges of this are not producing of information or storing of information has a role of in the advance of knowledge decision making avoidance of duplication of efforts and technology. The user community of the university library consists of mainly post graduates' students, M. Phil students, Ph. d scholars, and faculty members. Amongst them, the research scholars' use of the library is a grand place for their research workers and the university library is intended to be a place where students consult to acquire more knowledge. Generally, the student and research scholar community is biggest in size than user communities in the university set up.

Knowledge Resource Center plays the main role in the knowledge transfer cycle and in that information is a major role. The role of the

University Library is not limited to the preservation of users' reading materials but also to ensure that the information needed to the provider of the user is met by own traditional as well as e-resources and service facility.

#### Information

According to 'The ALA Glossary of Library and information Science'

"All ideas, facts and imaginative works of the mind which have been communicated, recorded, published and/or distributed formally or informally in any format."

According to 'Oxford English Dictionary'

"Information is facts or knowledge provider or learned."

According to Peter Ingwersen (1995)

"The resulted of a transformation of the generator's cognitive structures (by intentionality, model of recipients' state of knowledge, and in the form of signs), and "on the other hand information is something – structure –which, when perceived, may

affect and transform the recipients state of knowledge”.

Information is a major role and key of resource and an essential part for all type of educational institutions. Libraries have limited information resources with which they have to satisfy the information through the knowledge resource centers and their resources and services. Information is primary need of research scholars and then the action to how find out our research complete.

### Research Scholar

According to **Wikipedia**

“Creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge”.

According to **Cambridge Dictionary**

“To study a subject in detail, especially in order to discover new information or reach a new understanding”.

Searching it again and again means that Research. Research is an investigation of art and science. It is considered as scientifically systematic efforts and to gain of new knowledge information. The major purpose of the research for applied research is discovering.

### The Needs and Importance of Information

- Pieces of information are an aid in decision making, policy making needed for the policymakers, decision-makers, managers, etc.
- Information will have reinforcement on human beings on receiving it. A great deal for change can be perceived in the human mind attitudes on obtaining the information, as it increases the ability of personal knowledge for the recipients.
- Information is applied to various areas of human activities.
- Information includes the growth of knowledge, wisdom, decision making, and management, R&D, manufacturing and educational industry, training, and academic articles, by continuous streams of minds resulting from it.
- Information needs are often understood in information science as evolving from spreading awareness of something missing

and as culminating in locating the information that contributes to understanding and meaning.

Information need is described as an anomalous state of knowledge or a gap in individuals in the sense-making situation.

### Objective of the study

- To understand the behaviour of information seeking of the research scholars.
- To examine the researcher's behaviour and awareness of information seeking about the library e- resources, facility, and services.
- To find out all types of documents information sources used by the research scholars.
- To know about the purpose of information-seeking behaviour.

### Kinds of Information Needs

- **Recent Information Need** - in order to keep the information users up to date in their respective areas of development the necessity of recent information is intended to make available the right information in the correct format of the users at time easiest way to information gathering.
- **Exhaustive Information Need** – this necessitates when a particular information user needs a piece of particular information exhaustively. Detailed information on a particular field helps the users to draw a conclusion in a particular field of that activity.
- **Every Minutes or Seconds Information** - day-to-day information activities vary from man to man. Different types of users need information from different points of view. There are some types of users who actually need information on a particular activity every second.

### Information Seeking

- **Wiberley (1989)** defines ‘information seeking’ Information Seeking Models as “information seeking is a basic activity indulged in by all people and manifested through a particular behavior”.

• **Information Seeking Behaviours**

Information behaviour is the most of the men behaviours in the relation to the sources of human serving the channels of information including both activities and information seeking and information use. Thus it includes that face-to-face human communication with others as well as the passive reception of information seeking in for the ex. of watching movies without any advertisement and any intention to act on the information given. Information-seeking behaviour is a broad term of circumscribing and how to individuals articulate their information needs, seek, evaluate, select, and use information. Thus, information-seeking behaviour is the purposive seeking for that information to needs as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal. Information behaviour can be defined by the general model of information-seeking behaviours structured and developed by T. D. Wilson 1997.

According to T. D. Wilson, a general model of information-seeking behaviour important and needs to include at least the following three elements:

- An information-seeking behaviour need and its drivers, i.e., the factors that give rise to an individual's perception of need;
- The components that affect the individual's response to the perception of needs;
- The processes or actions included in the response.

Taylor (1991) defines information-seeking behaviour as the product of a certain element of the part of the information-seeking use environment. The elements are:

- The supposition formally new information-seeking behaviour learned or not made by a defined set of people concerning the nature of their work.
- The affectionate and structure of the problems deemed to needs and typical by this set of the people.
- The constraints and opportunities to give of typical environments within which any groups or subgroups of this set of people operate and work.

**Information Seeking Behaviour Models**

The influence of information and communication technology is also part of information seeking and providing a new set of alternative models that more accurately described that information seeking process as a dynamic activity. Models of information-seeking behaviour attempt to describe the process a user follows to satisfy information needs.

1) **Eisenberg and berkowitz's Big Six Skills**

**Models**



Eisenberg and Berkowitz proposed the big six skills that present a general approach to information problem solving, consisting of six logical steps or stages. The big six skills involve:

- **Task Definition:** The research scholar needs to define the problem from information point to point.
- **Information Seeking Strategies:** once the student has clearly defined the information problem, then they must decide which and what information sources are the most appropriate to solve the task.
- **Locating and access:** Locating and access to information is the implementation of the information-seeking strategy.
- **Use of information:** Once research scholars have found the needed information, they can employ skills to use the information.

- Synthesis: This is the application of all information to the defined task. It involves restructuring and repackaging the information into a new different form.
- Evaluation: Evaluations are the examination to hold and improving the assessment of the information problem-solving process. It determines whether the information can be found to meet the defined task.

2) Wilson’s and kuhlthau’s Model of information Seeking

Wilson’s model, first identified in 1981, is based on a user having a need that may or may not stem from the previously acquired information. This model suggested that information-seeking behaviour move upward as a consequence of the need perceived by information users. Information seeking maybe lead to either a success or a failure of the information. If successful, information is situated which will be used. This may examine the information in the satisfaction or nonsatisfaction of the original perceived need. Satisfaction occurs when the location of information has been analyzed and the research scholar satisfies the original need. The information-seeking process ends when the researcher's perceived need has been satisfied.

From “Model in information Behaviour Research” by T. D Wilson, 1981 Journal of Documentation

The 1981 models contain 12 elements and were adopted in 1996 by Wilson into a second information model that draws from a variety of fields other more than information science, including consumer research, psychology, innovation, health communication, science and technology, and decision-making. From “Models in information Behaviour Research” by T. D. Wilson, 1981, Journal of Documentations, 55, P. 257.

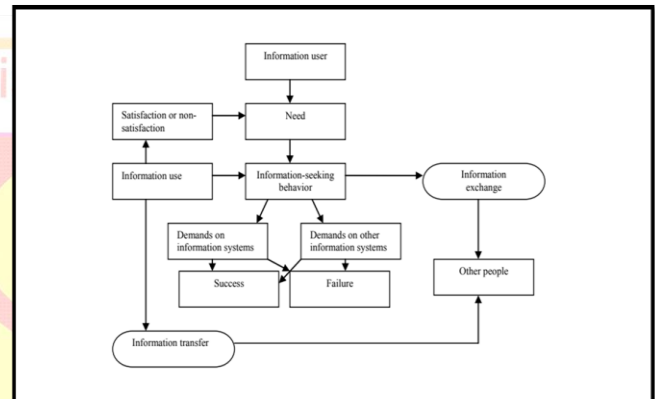


Fig. 2. Wilson’s 1996 Model of Information Behaviour

By the giving figure on that theories and components from other discipline, the revised model clarifies the different models between being exposed to information and actively seeking it out.

3) Ellis Model of information Seeking

Eills' (1998) general model of information-seeking behaviour based on the study of the information-seeking methods of social scientists, research scholars, and pioneers in educational institutions. One method of the models describes six categories of information-seeking activities as generic: starting, changing, browsing, differentiating, monitoring, and extracting.

- Starting comprises those working activities that form the initial search for information identifying sources of interest that could serve as starting points of the search.
- Chaining can backward take place when pointers or references from an initial source are followed and is a well-established routine of information seeking among scientists and researchers. Chaining forward as identified and follows up on other sources such as footnote of and citations of the initial source or documents. It is less

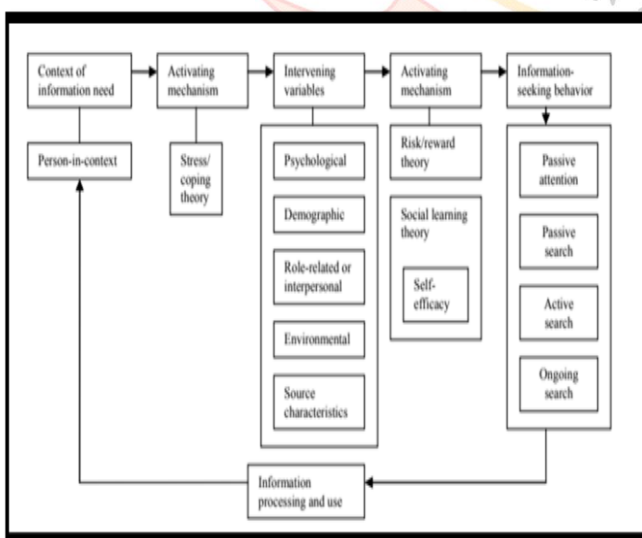


Fig. 1 Wilson’s models of information seeking behaviour (1981)

commonly used because people are unaware of it or the required bibliographical tools are unavailable.

- Browsing casually looking for information seeking and behaviour in those areas of potential information and interest. It not only includes scanning of published journals and tables of contents but also of reference and abstracts of printouts from retrospective literature searches.
- Differentiating
- Monitoring
- Extracting

### **About the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded**

SRTMU, Nanded was established on Sept. 17th, 1994 by the Govt. of Maharashtra. The university region to the southern part of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra by covering four districts namely Nanded, Latur, Parbhani, and Hingoli. NAAC Accredited with Grade 'A' to University. This university has 14 schools on campus, 4 schools at sub-campus at Parbhani; a constituent college New Model Degree College at Hingoli and academic, research and development centers like Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Chair and Study Centre, Shri Guru Govind Singhji Adhyasan Sankul, and Researchers Centre, Women's Study Centres at the main campus and Late Uttamrao Rathod Tribal Research and Development Centre at Kinwat. University has 284 plus affiliated colleges under its jurisdiction facilitating the 144 programs with student strength of 1.60 lakhs and 3540 plus students through distance education mode offering programs in interdisciplinary studies, humanities, commerce and management, and Science and Technologies studies. University hosts more than 70 foreign students across five countries for Postgraduate and Ph.D. Programs and make continued efforts to student increase the number of international.

SRTM University has been implemented to credit the transfer of policy and reimburses fees to the successful students who gave the courses offered on SWAYAM, NPTEL, and MOOC platforms. Good results of enrolment of these courses. The professors have been judged as an Active chapter by

IIT Madars, NPTEL. SRTM University has been signed to MoU with an initiative of IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, NMECIT, and MHRD. This will allows gives a paradigm shifted in Information and Communication Technology-based learning education in that university.

### **About the University Library (KRC)**

The Center which he leads is the Central Library of the SRTM University. It is known as (KRC) Knowledge Resource Center as per nomenclature given by Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016. The KRC has a collection of more than 71563 books and Technical Reports, which includes reference books, Hyderabad Freedom Struggles Collection, and theses, etc. Knowledge Resource Center subscribes to the different print journals, Electronic Journals, and periodicals. The KRC preserves local history through a Hyderabad Freedom Struggle special collection on a that Movement of this area was under the then Nizam state before independence. The KRC also have a number of Braille books collection for visually challenged Divyangjan. KRC library users can a access number of e-resources as a part of Shodhsindhu of the UGC INFLIBNET program. KRC also subscribed few online e-resources.

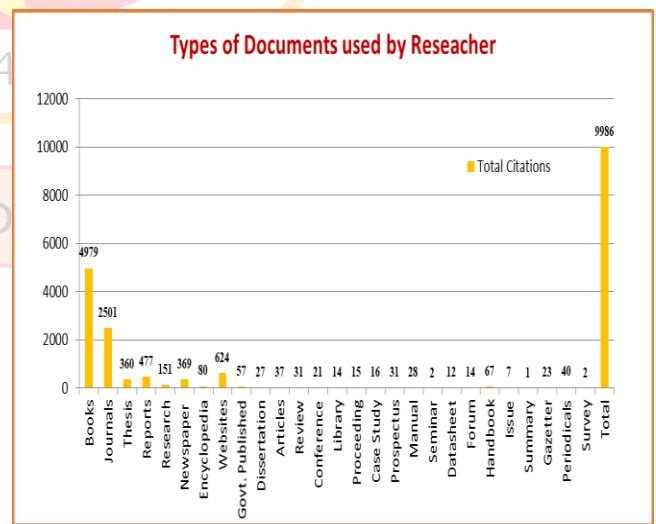
The KRC Project completed a UGC-INFLIBNET of digitization of theses are worth Rs. 17.56 Lakh and digitized it is entire print theses electronic collection. The theses submitted to this university are uploaded on the Shodhganga repository of INFLIBNET and the university stands in the fourth position in comparison with other universities of Maharashtra. KRC uploads proposals of Ph. D. on Shodhgangotri. The university stands in the second position at the National level in Shodhgangotri. KRC provides similarity check (Plagiarism) services since 2015 to researchers and authors of scholarly publications. The (KRC) Knowledge Resource Center is automated with Integrated Library Management System SOUL 2.0. Users can search the availability of books in the KRC through WEB OPAC. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have been adopted in every walk of library activities viz. maximum communication through e-mails, Bar Code Readers, preservation digital copy of accession

registers, SMS service, (KRC) Knowledge Resource Center of the readers' group for communication, etc. Users are promoted for the use of the National Digital Library of India.

**Data Analysis and Results**  
**Table No.1: Types of Documents Types of Documents**

S r. No.	Type of Citations	Indian	Foreign	Total Citations	Percent age
1	Books	4296	683	4979	49.79
2	Journals	1793	708	2501	25.01
3	Thesis	347	13	360	3.60
4	Reports	393	84	477	4.77
5	Research	95	56	151	1.51
6	Newspaper	365	4	369	3.69
7	Encyclopedia	72	8	80	0.80
8	Websites	568	56	624	6.24
9	Govt. Published	57	0	57	0.57
10	Dissertation	27	0	27	0.27
11	Articles	36	1	37	0.37
12	Review	23	8	31	0.31
13	Conference	18	3	21	0.21
14	Library Annual Report	6	8	14	0.14

15	Proceeding	5	10	15	0.15
16	Case Study	14	2	16	0.16
17	Prospectus	10	21	31	0.31
18	Manual	27	1	28	0.28
19	Seminar	2	0	2	0.02
20	Datasheet	7	5	12	0.12
21	Forum	2	12	14	0.14
22	Handbook	67	0	67	0.67
23	Special Issue	7	0	7	0.07
24	Summary	1	0	1	0.01
25	Gazetteer	23	0	23	0.23
26	Periodicals	40	0	40	0.40
27	Survey	2	0	2	0.02
<b>Total</b>		<b>8333</b>	<b>1683</b>	<b>9986</b>	<b>100</b>



The Table No.1 indicates the Analysis of the Types of Documents of this research work. There are 27 Types of documents used by research for their doctoral research. The number of the citations of these documents is 9986 which has taken as 100% in

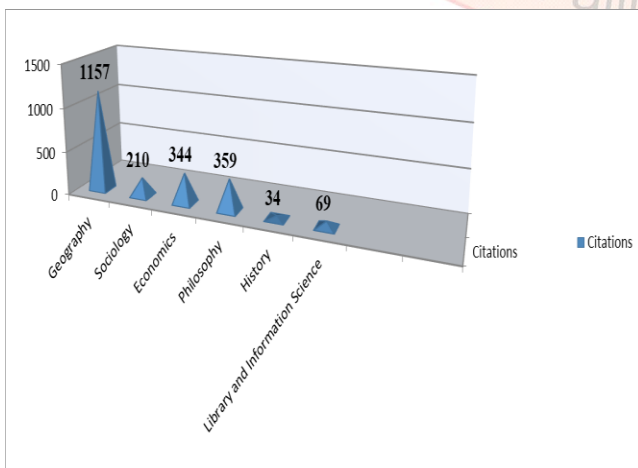
the percentage. Out of 9986 citations, the 5071 number of citations is of the books. The percentage of this type of citation is 50.78%. The Journals are listed as 2501 number of citation and the total percentage of this type of citation is 24.04%. The least number of citations are of the Statistical Papers and it is only 03 out of 9986 and the percentage is 0.04%. The most numbers of citations after the Books and Journals listed in this table are Websites (6.25%), Reports (4.78%), Newspapers (3.70%) and Thesis (3.61%). There are 27 types of documents listed in this Table of Types of Documents which also includes Papers, Research, Encyclopedia, Govt. Resources, E-resources and others.

**Table No 1.1 Subject Wise Citation Analysis (Journal)**

The Table No.1.1 indicates the Analysis of the Subject wise Citation of the Journals listed in this research work. There are 09 serial numbers of the Subject wise Citation Analysis of Journals.

Sr. No.	Subject	No. of Citations	Percentage
1	Geography	1157	53.25
2	Sociology	210	9.66
3	Economics	344	15.83
4	Philosophy	359	16.52
5	History	34	1.56
6	Library and Information Science	69	3.18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2173</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Subject Wise Citation Analysis (Journal)**



In that table, the listed number of citations of the journals is 2173 which is taken by 100%. The most of the number of citations of the subject journal of Geography is 1157 and the second number of the citation of that philosophy subject journal is 359, the third number of citation in this listing on that subject journal economics is 344 and this table shows that the journal of different subject journals citations Sociology, History, and Library and Information Science journal analyzed.

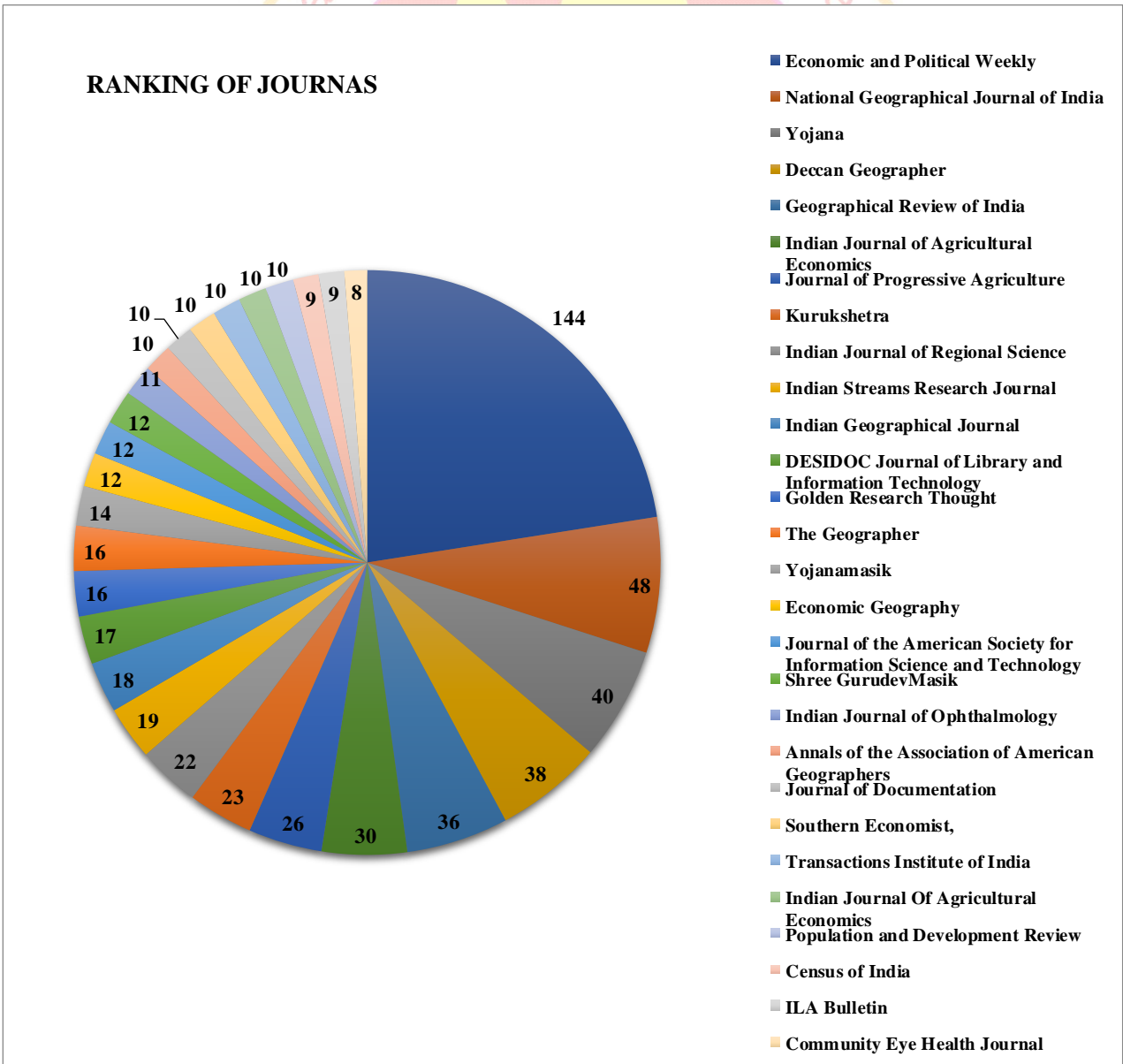
**Table No.1.2 Ranking of Journals**

Table No 1.2 indicates the Ranking of the Journals which have been used in the research works selected for the detailed study.

Rank	Title of Journal	No. of Citation	Percentage	Cumulative Citation	Percentage
1	Economic and Political Weekly	144	5.76	144	5.76
2	National Geographical Journal of India	48	1.92	192	7.68
3	Yojana	40	1.60	232	9.28
4	Deccan Geographer	38	1.52	270	10.80
5	Geographical Review of India	36	1.44	306	12.24
6	Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics	30	1.20	336	13.43
7	Journal of Progressive Agriculture	26	1.04	362	14.47
8	Kurukshetra	23	0.92	385	15.39
9	Indian Journal of Regional Science	22	0.88	407	16.27
10	Indian Streams Research Journal	19	0.76	426	17.03
11	Indian Geographical Journal	18	0.72	444	17.75
12	DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology	17	0.68	461	18.43
13	Golden Research Thought	16	0.64	477	19.07
14	The Geographer	16	0.64	493	19.71

15	Yojanamasik	14	0.56	507	20.27
16	Economic Geography	12	0.48	519	20.75
17	Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology	12	0.48	531	21.23
18	Shree GurudevMasik	12	0.48	543	21.71
19	Indian Journal of Ophthalmology	11	0.44	554	22.15
20	Annals of the Association of American Geographers	10	0.40	564	22.55
21	Journal of Documentation	10	0.40	574	22.95
22	Southern Economist,	10	0.40	584	23.35

23	Transactions Institute of India	10	0.40	594	23.75
24	Indian Journal Of Agricultural Economics	10	0.40	604	24.15
25	Population and Development Review	10	0.40	614	24.55
26	Census of India	9	0.36	623	24.91
27	ILA Bulletin	9	0.36	632	25.27
28	Community Eye Health Journal	8	0.32	640	25.59





From the above ranking of journals, it was observed that out of 28 journals, Economic and Political Weekly tops the list having 144 citations (5.76%) followed by National Geographical Journal of India having 48 citations (1.92%) and Yojana having 40 citations (1.60%).

### Conclusion

This article shows that represent the types of document in Srtmun library, Subject Wise Citation Analysis (Journal), and Ranking of Journals. The Library and Information Science professionals have been raising the value and effectiveness of research. Various factors have been responsible for initiating research in this field. Therefore, the summary of the present research work will have been done after the analysis and interpretation of the collected data, and the findings out, conclusions and recommendations will be mentioned in this research work. A few issues and problems will also be focused on which will come across while doing the actual work of the research because we all know that no work is easy without problems and breakers.

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