

## Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL) as a Platform for Scholarly Journal Publications by State Universities of Sri Lanka



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Scholarly journal publishing in Sri Lanka has come a long way since the inception of the first periodical, "The Ceylon Government Gazette," in 1802, which included selected scientific papers presented at the Ceylon Literary Society (Yapa, 2011). According to historical records, the "Journal of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society" is considered the first scholarly journal in Sri Lanka. The establishment of University College in 1921 marked the beginning of expanded research and publishing, leading to the creation of the "Ceylon Journal of Science," which served various branches of science. In 1943, the first university-affiliated publication, the "University of Ceylon Review," provided a platform for other academic subjects. Yapa (2011), in her article titled "The Historical Development of Sri Lankan Scholarly Journal Publishing (1845 – 2010)," indicated that Sri Lankan universities produced the highest number of publications in the 1980s.

The year 2008 represents a significant milestone in the history of scholarly journal publishing in Sri Lanka with the establishment of Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL), dedicated to promoting indigenous scholarship (National Science Foundation, 2023). SLJOL, a primary web-based journal platform, was initiated under the "Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information" (PERI), which later became "Strengthening Research and Knowledge Systems" (SRKS) under the purview of the "International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications" (INASP), United Kingdom. The SLJOL platform was developed using the Open Journal Systems created by the Canadian Public Knowledge Project (PKP), enabling indexing through Open Archives Initiative search engines dedicated to research. The University of Colombo pioneered the establishment of this platform. Since 2013, the National Science Library and Resource Centre (NSLRC) of the National Science Foundation has taken responsibility under the supervision of INASP. NSLRC has had total administrative responsibility for SLJOL since March 2018 (Wanigasinghe, 2017). What began with six journals at its inception has grown into 129 journals with 2,263 issues, encompassing 19,637 articles to date (National Science Foundation, 2023). SLJOL now enjoys both local and global viewership, serving as a comprehensive database of all journals published in Sri Lanka (Wanasinghe 2017). Despite the limited number of studies conducted on SLJOL, Ranasinghe and Chung (2019) elaborated on the characteristics of open-access journal publishing, with special reference to SLJOL. They found that 48% of open-access journals were published by academic institutes. However, no study has been conducted to assess the contribution of state universities to open-access publishing on SLJOL.

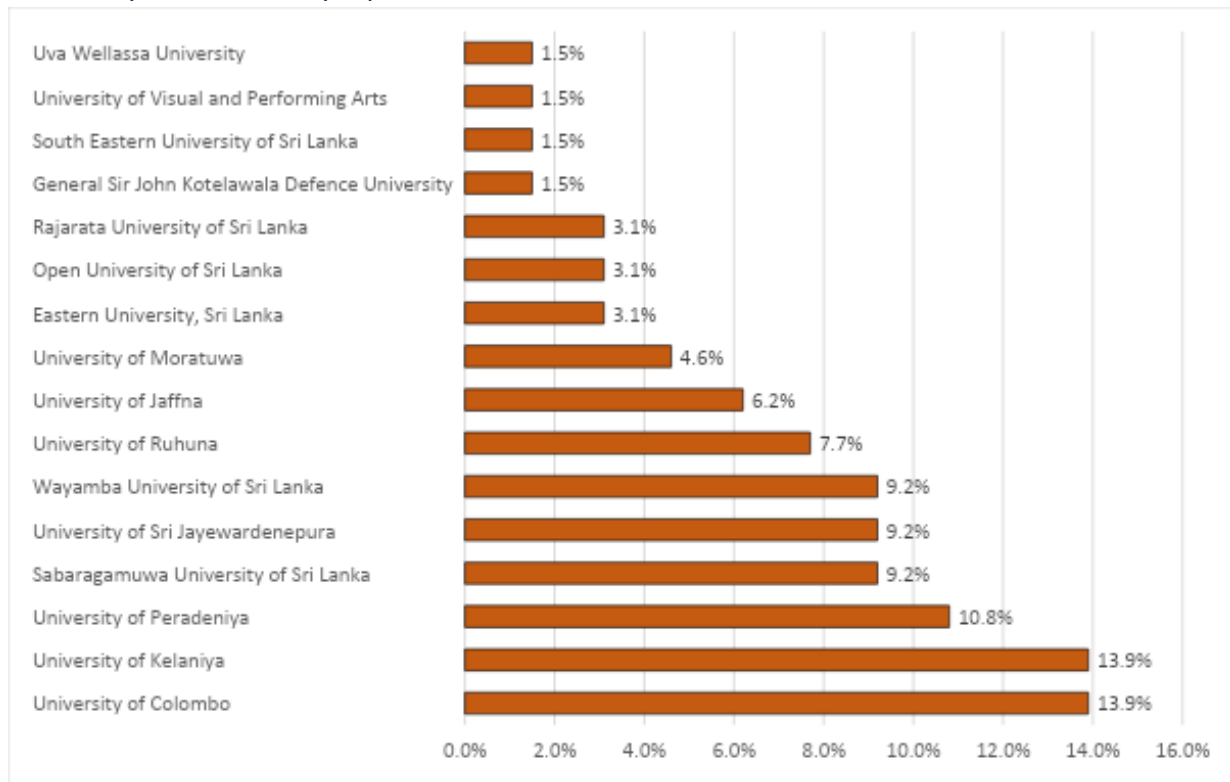
As of August 2023, sixty-five journals (50.4%) out of the 129 journals hosted on SLJOL originate from state universities (see Table 1 and Figure 1), with their publication frequencies depicted in Figure 2.

Wangasinghe (2017) noted that SLJOL covers a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, while Ranasinghe and Chung (2019) observed that academic institutes tend to publish more journals related to subjects other than medicine.

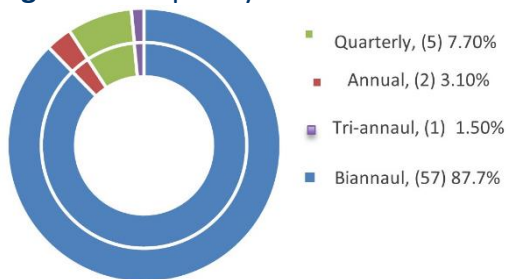
**Table 1: Scholarly Journal Publications by State Universities as of August 2023**

University	Journal Title
Eastern University, Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGRIEAST: Journal of Agricultural Sciences</li> <li>• Journal of Science</li> </ul>
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KDU Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies</li> </ul>
Open University of Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSL Journal</li> <li>• Sri Lanka Journal of Management Studies</li> </ul>
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal of Management Matters</li> <li>• Sri Lankan Journal of Agriculture and Ecosystems</li> </ul>
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian Journal of Management Studies</li> <li>• Journal of Agricultural Sciences – Sri Lanka</li> <li>• Journal of Geospatial Surveying</li> <li>• Sabaragamuwa University Journal</li> <li>• South Asian Journal of Tourism and Hospitality</li> <li>• Sri Lanka Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities</li> </ul>
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka	Journal of Management
University of Colombo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceylon Journal of Medical Science</li> <li>• Colombo Business Journal</li> <li>• Colombo Journal of Multi-Disciplinary Research</li> <li>• International Journal on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer)</li> <li>• Journal of Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences</li> <li>• Journal of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine</li> <li>• Sri Lankan Journal of Librarianship and Information Management</li> <li>• Sri Lanka Journal of Critical Care</li> <li>• University of Colombo Review</li> </ul>
University of Jaffna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Journal of Accounting and Business Finance</li> <li>• Journal of Business Studies</li> <li>• Journal of Dry Zone Agriculture</li> <li>• Vingnanam Journal of Science</li> </ul>
University of Kelaniya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Journal of Accountancy</li> <li>• Journal of Business and Technology</li> <li>• Journal of Science of the University of Kelaniya</li> <li>• Kalyani: Journal of the University of Kelaniya</li> <li>• Kelaniya Journal of Human Resource Management</li> <li>• Kelaniya Journal of Management</li> <li>• South Asian Journal of Finance</li> <li>• Sri Lanka Journal of Marketing</li> <li>• TRIVALENT ත්‍රිවංශය: Journal of Archaeology, Tourism &amp; Anthropology</li> </ul>
University of Moratuwa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cities People Places: An International Journal on Urban Environments</li> <li>• FARU Journal</li> <li>• Bhumi, The Planning Research Journal*</li> </ul>
*In Collaboration with La Trobe University, Australia	
University of Peradeniya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceylon Journal of Science (Biological Sciences)</li> <li>• Ceylon Journal of Science</li> <li>• Peradeniya Management Review</li> <li>• Sri Lanka Journal of Forensic Medicine, Science &amp; Law</li> <li>• Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities</li> <li>• Sri Lankan Journal of Health Sciences</li> <li>• Tropical Agricultural Research</li> </ul>
University of Ruhuna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review</li> <li>• Journal of the University of Ruhuna</li> <li>• Ruhuna Journal of Science</li> <li>• South Asian Journal of Business Insights</li> <li>• Tropical Agricultural Research and Extension</li> </ul>
University of Sri Jayewardenepura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies</li> <li>• Journal of Health Sciences and Innovative Research</li> <li>• Sri Lankan Journal of Human Resource Management</li> <li>• Vidyodaya Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences</li> <li>• Vidyodaya Journal of Management</li> <li>• Vidyodaya Journal of Science</li> </ul>
University of Visual and Performing Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal of Music Research</li> </ul>
Uva Wellassa University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal of Agriculture and Value Addition</li> </ul>
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal of Accountancy and Finance</li> <li>• Journal of Food and Agriculture</li> <li>• Sri Lankan Journal of Banking and Finance</li> <li>• Wayamba Journal of Animal Science</li> <li>• Wayamba Journal of Management</li> <li>• Applied Economics &amp; Business</li> </ul>

**Figure 1: University-wise Scholarly Input in SJOL**

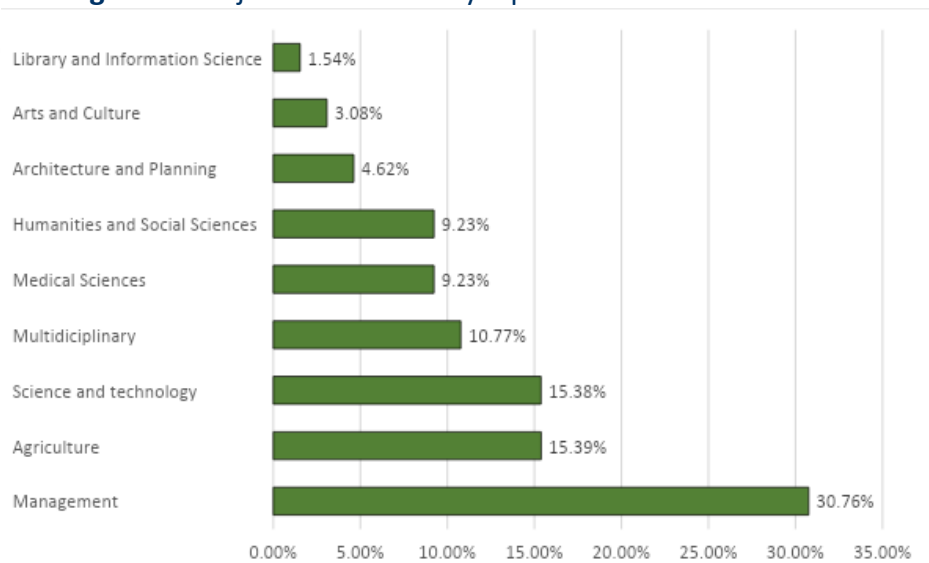


**Figure 2: Frequency of Publication**



Journal Share (%)

**Figure 3: Subject-wise Scholarly Input in SJOL**



**Table 2: SJOL Ratings for Scholarly Input**

JPPS Framework	Three Stars	Stars	One Star	No Stars	New Title	Inactive Title
Journal Titles	0 (0%)	11 (16.9%)	8 (12.3%)	20 (30.8%)	13 (20%)	3 (4.6%)

Note: Status was not mentioned in 10 titles

The current composition of the broad subjects catered to by university publications is depicted in Figure 3, where journals related to 'Management' hold a significant share at 30.76%. Content analysis revealed that 98.5% of the journals (64) are published exclusively in English, while 1.5% (1) are published in English, Sinhala and Tamil. Despite most journals being published in English, only 33.9% of them invite international authors. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that 86.1% of the journals are included in other publishing services such as Scopus, Web of Science, Directory of Open Access Journals, Zoological Records, etc. Since 2016, journals in SLJOL have been assessed by INASP by an internationally recognized Journal Publishing Practices and Standards (JPPS) framework (Wanasinghe, 2017). JPPS ranks journals into six categories, and Table 2 shows the ranks obtained by university-affiliated scholarly journals. Nearly 30% of the journals received a "Star" status and 30.8% of the journal titles are working towards achieving a JPPS status. Although three journal titles are currently inactive, current issues of 30 journals (46.1%) are accessible on SLJOL. Notably, none of the university-affiliated journals are indexed in Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, or Science Citation Index Expanded. Wickramasinghe (2018) also noted that the research output of Sri Lankan academics in indexed journals remains low, despite most state universities publishing local scholarly journals. Librarians must be proactive in collaborating with all stakeholders to raise the standards of local scholarly journals. Local journals play a vital role in promoting and disseminating indigenous scholarship, which ultimately informs policy and practice in the context of national development (Ranasinghe et al., 2011).

The impact of Sri Lanka Journals Online over the span of 15 years, from 2008 to 2023, is immeasurable. It has been a transformative journey that exceeds mere statistics and numbers. This platform has played an indispensable role in shaping the academic landscape in Sri Lanka and beyond.

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