Library and Information Science Open Access Journals in Arab Countries

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Abstract:

In response to open access initiatives, many LIS open access journals have been issued in Arab countries. These journals are not widely known; many DOAJ studies pointed out that there is only one Arabic journal. Giving a wider prospective to LIS open access journals in Arab countries was the objective of this study. Descriptive analysis was used to examine Arabic open access journals' web pages during May and June 2019. Data were collected using a refereed checklist. The study found out that There are 12 open access Journals issued in 8 Arab countries, one of them is ceased since 2013, institutions is the largest publishing body, followed by scientific associations, and 75% of these journals issue in dual formats (paper and digital). Only three journals have open access declaration on its web page, and 4 journals only are covered by indexing services; Dar Al Mandunah covers 75% of these journals. Most full text languages are in Arabic and English, while 80% of journals' web pages are in Arabic. 67% of journals have am editorial board, and 91.7% of these journals are refereed.

Key words: Open Access, Library and Information science, Arab Countries, Arabic Journals

Introduction:

Academic journals are a very important information source for researchers. In fact, according to many citation analyses of LIS literature studies, (Afifi, 2016; Ghoneem, 2009; Rattan, 2012) they are the most used source in research. New research topics, scholarly discussions, and peer reviews are among journals' advantages. Researchers face hard times as journals' subscriptions increase steadily, while most libraries face budget cuts; this cause an inequity of information access, especially in developing countries.

Leadership is one of a library's roles; this role depends highly on library users as creators and consumers of information. So how can libraries play its role in these economic conditions? How can libraries accomplish "equity of information access" to all its users? Sharing research outputs is kind of what is called "sharing economy" where individuals rent or borrow goods rather than buy and own them, this may lead libraries to play its leadership role.

Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002), Berlin Declaration (2003), IFLA announcement (2003) and Nidae ar-Ryadh, or Riyadh call (2006), recommend two strategies to achieve open access to scholarly journal literature: self archiving and open access journals. Thus open access journals could be the way for getting out of this impasse.

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) was a subject of many studies; all of them concluded that there is only one open access LIS journal in Arabic (*Cybrarians Journal*). But every bilingual LIS specialist knows that there is more than one Arabic LIS journal because they use them. Why these journals don't appear in DOAJ? What are these journals? What are their features? All these questions are among the questions of this study.

Aim of the study: There are many LIS open access journals in Arab countries, but they are not widely known. DOAJ includes only one Arabic LIS open access journal. So, the aim of this study is to give a wider perspective to LIS open access journals in Arab Countries. The study will attempt to answer certain questions about open access journals' numbers, geographic distributions, publishers, languages, authors' rights, archiving policies, search facilities, licensing attributions and their indexing coverage.

Methodology: descriptive analytical methodology was used especially to examine Arabic open access journals' web pages during May and June 2019. Data was collected using a refereed checklist.

Definition of open access:

Open access simply means that anyone can easily access research outputs freely, read it, use it in any way (remix, reproduce or reuse). According to Dictionary for Library and Information Science, an open access journal is "a scholarly periodical that makes the full text of the articles it publishes universally and freely available via the internet in easily read format, in some cases by depositing them immediately upon publication without embargo in at least one widely recognized open access repository". (Reitz, 2004, pp. 501-502) According to this definition, journals which are not published openly but can be reached through an open repository are considered open access journals.

Importance of open access:

Open access's benefits are not limited to libraries and academic journals' readers, but they also affect the whole community. Open access could support innovation, improve research quality, improve cost effectiveness, achieve fairness, and have a social role, especially in developing countries (Bell, Blanchett, & Harris, 2017).

Literature review:

Open access has been a subject of many studies; this literature review targets studies which are relevant to this study and groups them by their main topics. Some studies included open access journals among other Arabic electronic journals, as in (Abdel Hady, 2012), which presented a content analysis of Arabic electronic LIS journals to discover how this content enriches Arabic content on the Internet. Arabic LIS journals' web sites were also among other

Arabic web sites included in (Abdel Hakeem, 2012); to determine these sites' level of quality. Patterns of Arabic LIS electronic journals use by LIS faculty members in Mosul University (Iraq) were discussed in (Alkafaf, 2011). (Khalifa, 2017) evaluated the current situation of six electronic Arab journals in LIS to find out how these journals compatible with the criteria of citation databases and journals' directories.

DOAJ, as a source of open access journals, was a subject of many studies; (Chauhan, 2012; Morrison, 2008; Pujar, 2014; Rufai, Gul, & Shah, 2012; Sahoo, Birtia, & Mohanty, 2017; Thavamani, 2013) studied LIS journals in DOAJ, (Ahmed, 2009, 2011) also had a detailed study about DOAJ. The main difference between all these studies of DOAJ is the periodicals' number, which changes from one version to another. Other DOAJ studies analyzed open access journals in a particular discipline (pedagogy) (Tomaszewski, Poulin, & MacDonald, 2013) or country (India) (Lone, Rather, & Shah, 2008).

Comparing between open access journals and subscription-based journals was the focus of many studies: (Foaad, 2011) compared between the uses of the two journal types by LIS academics, while (Mukherjee, 2009; Proferes & Peekhaus, 2015; Rowley, Johnson, Sbaffi, Frass, & Devine, 2017) studied LIS faculty members' attitudes towards publishing their researches in open access journals.

A journal is one method of scholarly communication. (Mukherjee, 2010) discussed whether open access is a sustainable model for professional and scholarly publishing in LIS or not; insufficient metadata elements provided by authors or editors and lack of updated journal web pages were two weak points identified. Faculty members were also a subject of (Peekhaus & Proferes, 2016) 's study, which contained a descriptive analysis of North American LIS faculty members towards open access publishing and their experience with it.

Citation analysis is the best indicator of information sources' use. To know if there are any differences between open access articles' citation patterns, (Brody, 2006) compared between the citations and impacts of open access and non-open access papers in his PhD thesis and observed the development of open access-aggregating tools. (Kousha & Thelwall, 2006) addressed their study to identifying and classifying apparent creation motivations for the URL citations of 15 peer-viewed LIS OA journal articles published in the year 2000. They then presented another study (Kousha & Thelwall, 2007) to assess whether the Web contains citation data that could complete ISI data for traditional bibliometric studies in the social sciences through analyzing sources of "unique Web/URL citations" from Google and from open access journal articles in four social sciences disciplines; afterwards, (Mukherjee, 2009) compared between patterns of hyperlinked references of Web-based scholarly open access articles in LIS. To examine open access practices among library and information science authors, (Grandbois & Beheshti, 2014) analyzed citations of articles about open access written by LIS authors and published from 2003 to 2011. All these studies indicated that most citations in open access journals are similar to formal citations, and they also showed that open access journals and non open access journals have similar citation impacts.

To recognize the difference between faculty members and practitioners in their use of open access journals as an output for their research, Chang started his study (Chang, 2015) to know librarians' contributions to open access publications during the study period (2008- 2013). Afterwards, Chang presented another study (Chang, 2017) to compare between authors' characteristics in open access and non open access LIS journals in the same study period (2008-

2013). These two studies confirmed that there are no obvious threats from open access publishing towards traditional scholarly publishing.

Open access depends on two pillars: open access archives and open access journals. Repositories, one type of these archives, provide free access to scholarly materials. Some repositories are dedicated to a discipline; (Hirwade & Mahajan, 2006) described E-LIS repository, which is an archive of e-prints in library and information science. Other repositories belong to an institution (institutional repositories); they are meant to collect and preserve all intellectual outputs of an institution. The current state of institutional repositories was discussed in (Hirwade & Hirwade, 2006), along with the major institutional repositories in India.

The growth of open access repositories and journals has been discussed in (Zainab, AN, 2013), in which the author also proposed roles that libraries can play to promote open access initiatives. (Werfelli, 2013) studied open access repositories in the Arab world that are included in the biggest international repository guides: DOAR and ROAR.

Availability of high-impact LIS open access articles on Google Scholar was discussed in (Way, 2010); he concluded that Google Scholar is an effective tool for finding articles when they are known.

(Morrison, 2006) discussed that adopting open access approaches is paramount for academics and librarians in developing countries (which most Arab countries are); he also included a list of open access resources to search for and to create open access journals and archives. (Babini, 2011) also reviewed regional, national, and institutional open access journal portals in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Findings and discussion:

I. The journal:

There are (12) LIS open access journals in Arab countries; only one journal has been ceased (*Libraries and Information Journal* ceased 2013), while (11) are still current. Figure (1) shows that these journals are issued in (8) countries only, which accounts for 36.3% of Arab countries (22 countries), and 66.7 % of these journals are issued in four countries (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tunisia), two journals each, while other countries have only one journal. There is no open access Libyan journal; the mentioned journal is issued from a commercial publisher and can be accessed through the repository of (Arab Center for Research and Studies in Library and Information Science; ACRSLIS).
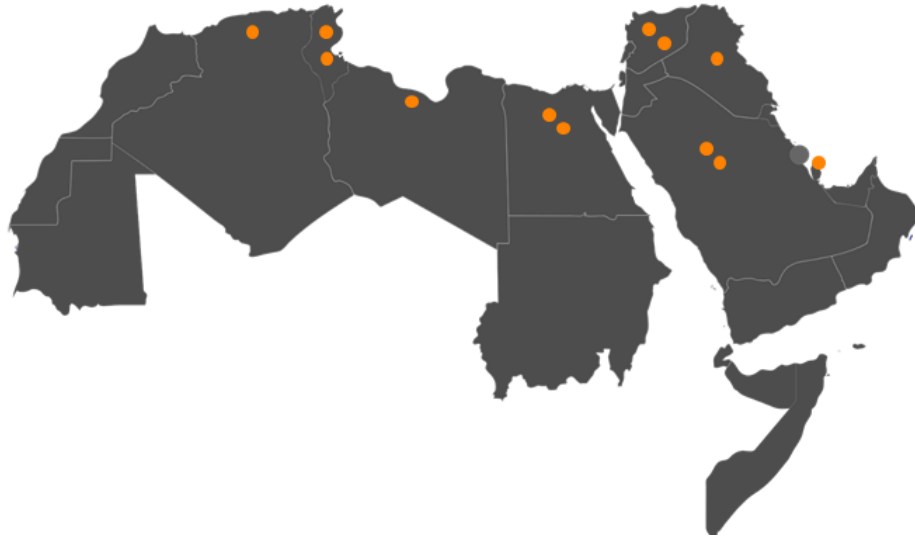
Fig. (1) Geographic distribution of open access journals

Table (1) shows the journals' geographic distribution, their URLs, journals' country of origin and abbreviations used for journals' titles.

Table No. (1) Journals' geographical distribution

Journal Title	Journal URL
Iraqi Journal of Information Technology (IJIT)	www.iasj.net/iasj?func=issues&jId=284&uiLanguage=ar
Arabic journal for Information (AJI)	http://www.alecso.org/nnsite/isdarat/1190-25-201.html
Infomag	http://www.scs.org.sy/?q=scs/infomag/main
Libraries and Information Journal (LIJ)	https://www.asjp.cerist.dz/en/researchRevue
Scientific Journal of Library, Archives & Information (SJLAI)	http://jslmf.journals.ekb.eg/
King Fahd National Library Journal (KFNLJ)	https://kfnl.gov.sa/Ar/mediacenter/EMagazine/Pages/default.aspx
Cybrarians Journal (Cybrarians)	http://www.journal.cybrarians.info
Ialam	https://arab-afli.org/main/content.php?alias= Afli- magazine23
Journal of Arab Centre for Research and Studies in Library and Information Science (J of ACRSLIS)	http://acrslis.weebly.com/1605158016041577-157516041605158516031586.html
Journal of Libraries and Information (JLI)	http://acrslis.weebly.com/1605158016041577-15751604160516031578157615751578-160815751604160515931604160816051575 1578.html
Journal of Information Studies & Technology (JIS&T)	https://www.qscience.com/content/journals/jist
Arab Archives Journal, Documentation and Information (AJADI)	https://ajadi.weebly.com/ajadi-43-2018.html

Institutions are the topmost publishers of open access journals, as shown in figure (2): they publish 58.3% of these journals. These institutions include universities, libraries, research centers, and the Arabic Portal for Libraries and Information.
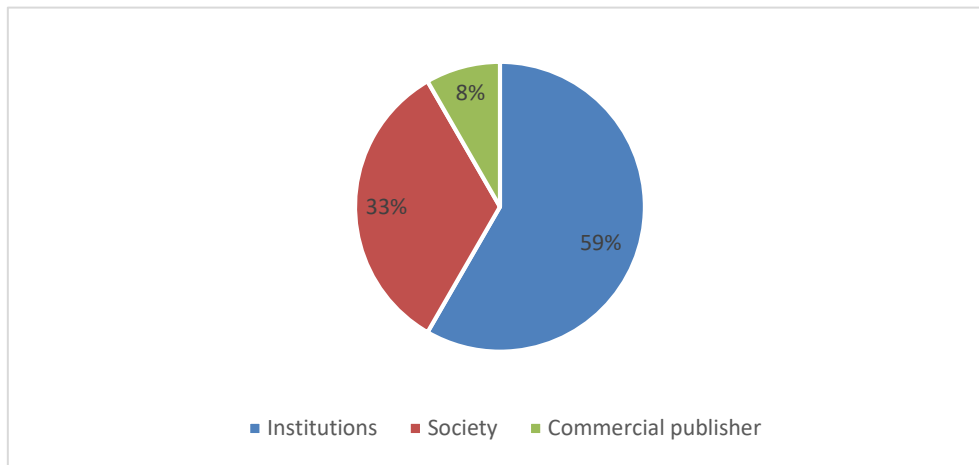

Fig. (2) Open access Journals' publishers

Scientific associations are in second place (33.3%); they could be regional associations, or local associations. Only one journal *(JLI)* is issued through a commercial publisher (Palm Housing). These results are the same on the international level. (Rufai et al., 2012; Thavamani, 2013) declared that universities are in the first rank of DOAJ journals' publishing bodies, followed by associations in the second rank.

All Arabian open access journals are regular, except for the *(AJI)*; it may take one year or two to have a new issue. The most common journals' frequency is two times yearly (72.7% of current journals), followed by 27.7% issued quarterly. *Infomag* is the only monthly journal.

Most Arabic LIS open access journals (75%) are available in two formats: digital and paper; as shown in figure (3), 66.7% of this dual format puts an image of each issue cover on its web page. The remaining 25% of journals (*Cybrarians*, *J of ACRSLIS*, and *JIS&T*) are issued in digital format only.
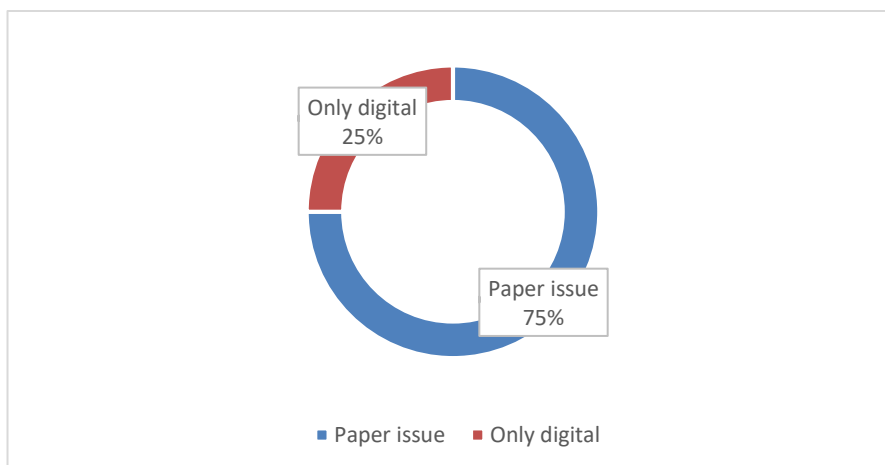

Fig. (3) Journals' formats

Only (10) journals have a web page; *Ialam* and *AJI* have no web pages; they are available on one PDF file through a link on the publishing institutions' web pages (AFLI and ALECSO).

80% of journals' web pages are in Arabic only, while 20% have other languages besides Arabic: one with French *(LIJ),* and the other with English *(JIS&T)*, as shown in figure (4)
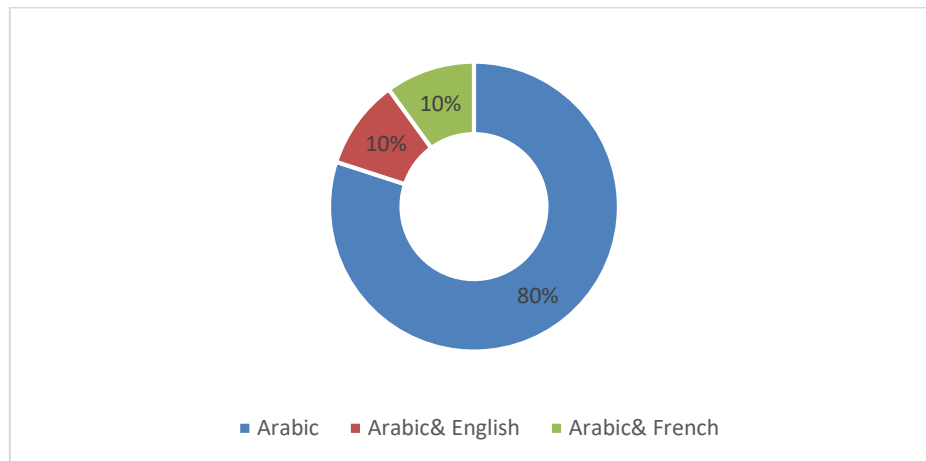
Fig. (4) Journals' web pages languages

Subscription data is found only in two journals: *Infomag* and *(JLI)*. The commenced year of a journal could be an indicator of a journal's stability and its history in the field; only 50% of journals include this element on their web pages.

Communication data make it easier for authors, readers, editorial board members, and referees to contact the journal. All journals, except *(LIJ)*, have the link "Contact Us". All journals can also be contacted through email, except *(AJI)*, which has no web page but has a postal address. *(SJLAI, and JLI)* also use printed mail alongside email. *(JIS&T)* is the only journal that can be contacted online for submitting articles.

Open access journals must have a declaration on its web page; an orange lock is used for this declaration. Although all previously mentioned Arabian open access journals can be accessed freely, figure (5) declares that only 27.3% of journals' web pages have an open access declaration (*IJIT*, *Cybrarians*, and *JIS&T)*, *J of ACRSLIS* stated on its web page that "the journal is available for free".
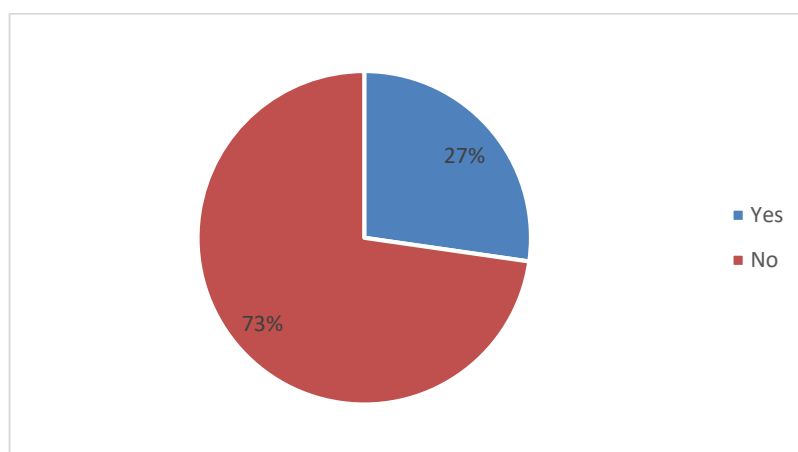
Fig. (5) open access declaration

As shown in figure (6), only 25% of Arab open access journals have creative common licensing attribution. The most used attribution is CC BY- NC- ND, which is used in two journals (*J of ACRSLIS and JLI*), probably because both journals are available on the same

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platform (CRSLIS); the former journal is the center's journal, while the latter is available through the center's repository. This license allows individuals to download a work and share it with others while giving credit to creators, but they cannot change the work in any way or use it commercially (Creative Commons, 2016).
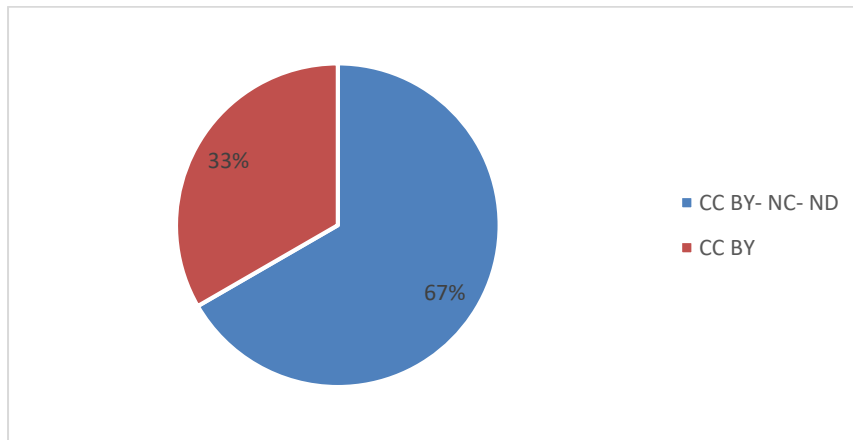

Fig. (6) Creative common licensing

The second creative commons used in Arabian LIS open access journals is CC BY and is used only in *Cybrarians*. This license means that others can distribute, remix, change, and build upon a work, even commercially, as long as they credit creators for the original creation (Creative Commons, 2016), and it is the preferred attribution licence in DOAJ because it is the least restrictive. This result is inconsistent with DOAJ's journals creative commons, as the highest license is CC BY, followed by CC BY NC ND (Sahoo et al., 2017).

Each electronic intellectual property item (journal article, web document,…etc) has a unique code developed by publishers for the identification and change of published works globally; this code is called Digital Code Identifier (DOI), and it is used to build web links to publishers' web sites, where the referenced paper can be retrieved (Brody, 2006, p. 47). Despite the importance of DOI for papers' retrieval, it is found only in (16.7%) of Arabian open access journals: (*SJLAI*, and *JIS&T*).

Availability of search facilities in a journal helps users to locate needed information in that journal. 60% of Arabian LIS open access journals that have a web page have an internal search engine as a search facility. Journals can be searched using either simple search or advanced search. Most search results are arranged by relevancy or arranged chronologically. *(JIS&T)* has a search engine that searches the whole platform hosting the journal (Q Science). *(AJI* and *Ialam)* are available as a single PDF file, so they are not searchable.

Bibliographic databases are another approach to reach open access journals' content. Indexing journals in one or more indexing services can help to increase their content visibility, but some studies have concluded that many open access journals are not well covered in traditional indexing services, which may lead to law citation rats and impact factors (Machovec, Morrison, & Whitehead, 2006; Tomaszewski et al., 2013). This is the exact situation in Arabic LIS open access journals; as illustrated in figure (7), 66.7% of journals are not covered by any indexing service, which means that only four journals (33.3%) are indexed in at least one indexing service.
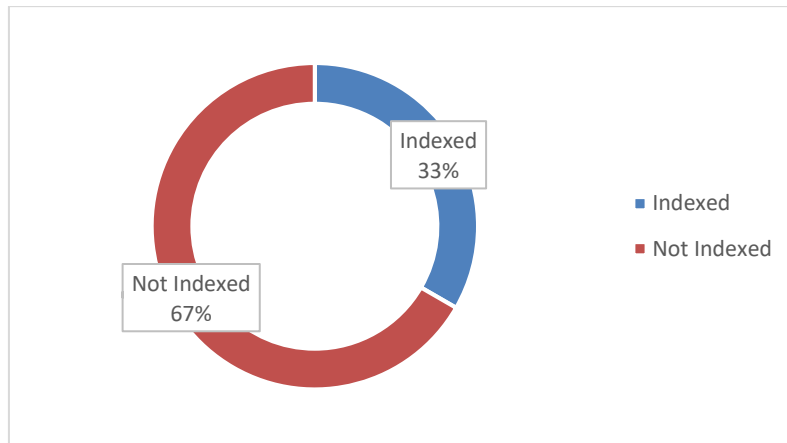
Fig. (7) Journals indexing coverage

Dar AlMandumah indexes[1] 75% of indexed journals and 25% of all Arabian LIS open access journals, according to the journals' web pages, making it the most common indexing service. These journals are: *(SJLAI, Cybrarians*, and *J of ACRSLIS).* Figure (8) reveals that Dar AlMandumah is not the only indexing service; EBSCO and Al Manhal databases index Arabic LIS literature, which includes open access journals.
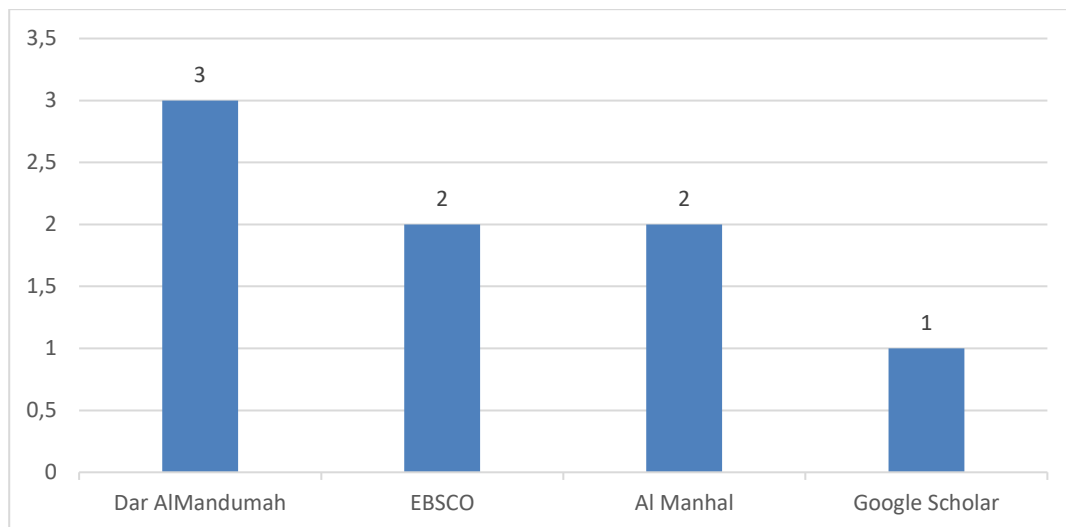

Fig. (8) Indexing services

The strange thing is that, according to Dar AlMandumah's list of indexed journals, five more journals are indexed in the database without any mention of this coverage on the journals' web pages. These extra journals are: *(IJIT, AJI, KFNLJ, LIJ,* and *JLI*). Thus Dar AlMandumah actually indexes (66.7%) of Arabian LIS open access journals.

Some journals are covered by more than one indexing service; (*Cybrarians* and *J of ACRSLIS* are both indexed by Dar AlMandumah, EBESCO, and Al Manhal databases. Meanwhile, *(JIS&T)* is only indexed by Google Scholar. These indexing services seem to be commonly

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[1] A full text database of Arabic literature

used in the LIS discipline; a study of LIS journals in DOAJ declared that these journals are covered by scholarly search engines like Google Scholar and full text databases like EBSCO (Pujar, 2014).

All issues (back and current) of (75%) of journals are available on their web pages, even the ceased one, but the journals' archiving policy is not clear in those web pages. A proper archiving policy will help in the long term preservation of digital content (Rufai et al., 2012), so such a policy is needed in Arabic open access journals. *(SJLAI)* is available only in Egypt because it is hosted by the Egyptian Knowledge Bank's server, whose content is available only inside the country.

Managing a journal is a costly matter, and it is more difficult when journals are accessed freely; that is why publishers may charge authors a sum of money as a form of Article Processing Charge (APC) (Rufai et al., 2012). These charges may be a potential barrier for publishing in open access journals, especially for researchers from developing countries, disciplines that do not attract much research funding, and junior researchers with no grant support (Peekhaus & Proferes, 2016). Fortunately, some journal publishers do not charge authors with limited funding, especially those from poor countries (Tomaszewski et al., 2013). This is the case in Arabic LIS open access journals; only (16.7 %) of open access journals in Arab countries (*IJIT,* and *SJLAI*) have an article processing charge (APC). Another 16.7% of journals did not mention it at all, so it is not clear if they have that policy or not, but it is clear that 58.3% of journals do not charge authors. These results are consistent with the result stating that nearly 81% of LIS journals in DOAJ do not collect APC charges, but only 18.99% accept these charges from authors. (Sahoo et al., 2017).

Usually the amount of money charged appears as a part of "instructions to authors". Strangely, these charges are variable; authors who are citizens of the journal's publication's country pay less than foreign authors even if they are citizens of another Arabic country, as in *(IJIT).*

A journal's three features, "about the journal", "publishing policy" and "aim and scope", which are supposed to explain the goal and mission of the journal, outline the types of papers the journal publishes, the peer review policy, the topics they publish,...etc. They are jumbled in Arabic LIS journals; one of them may not appear on the journal's web page, but its data is included under another feature's title. In *Cybrarians*, for example, "aim and scope" is part of the "about the journal" feature, so it will be not accurate if it is said that a journal does not have one of these features.

Publications in open access peer-reviewed journals face a major obstacle: tenure and promotion committees that consider these journals unfavorable or of lesser quality; this conclusion is proved through surveys to LIS academics in Egypt (Foaad, 2011) and in North America (Peekhaus & Proferes, 2016). Since 2011, the situation has been the same; the academic tenure and promotion committee in Egypt consider *Cybrarians*, which is the only open access journal included in DOAJ, in a lower rank compared to other journals. The main reason for that lower rank is not the journal's nature as an only digital format, but because the journal's publisher is not a scientific society or an academic institution. (Mahgoub, Personal interview, October 9, 2019)[2].

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[2] Member of Academic Promotion committee.

II. Editorial Board:

Almost all open access journals in Arab countries (91.7%) are refereed, as in figure (9). *Infomag* is the only journal that is not refereed, confirming the results of (Mukherjee, 2009) study, which states that the quality of reviewing and reviewers in LIS open access journals directly proportional with that of non open access LIS journals. All journals also have an editorial board. Most journals' (66.7%) editorial boards are identifiable by their names and affiliations; other journals either just mention editorial boards' names (*Ialam* and *AJI*) or do not give any information about their editorial board (*Infomag* and *KFNLJ*)

Giving the names and affiliations of editorial boards is so important because they may be responsible for reviewing articles in some journals. The study found that 50% of refereed Arabic LIS journals have an editorial review, while only two journals have a peer review (*IJIT*, and *SJLAI*). Blind peer review and double blind peer review are found only in (*Cybrarians* and *JIS&T*), respectively.
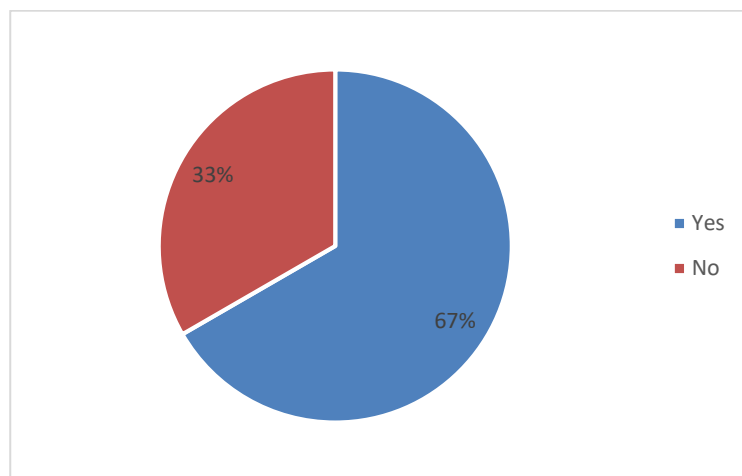

Fig. (9) Editorial board

Nowadays there are more concerns about plagiarism in Arab world, so all journals are expected to have a policy for that matter. Only *(JIS&T)*, which started last year (2018), has such a policy. This means that 91.7% of Arabian LIS open access journals are not interested in plagiarism. It is not clear on these journals' web pages if they have such a policy or not, even the newest journal *(SJLAI),* which was issued earlier this year (2019).

III. Authors

Most journals (66.7%) have clear "instructions to authors". These instructions include major issues such as: how to submit a paper, the accepted text format, citation style and accepted abstract with key words. *Infomag, AJI, LIJ,* and *KFNLJ* do not have such instructions. Authors were asked to add an abstract with key words in 83.33% of journals; only *Infomag* does not have this obligation, which is also unclear in *LIJ* web page, even though all articles in these journals have an abstract with keywords.

In printed journals, either authors or publishers exploit copyright; reuse of these materials is limited to their permission. In open access journals, these rights are transferred from the author to the journal's publisher with little differences in practice. (Hoorn & van der Graaf, 2006). Because of that, Creative Commons (CC) licenses are important to protect creators' rights; these licenses allow authors to license their work so that others may re-use it without having to take publishers' permission (University of Reading , 2013), and each open access

journal may choose the license to apply. Copyright and publishing rights are not clear in half of the journals (50%); only two journals give these rights without any restrictions to authors (*IJIT* and *Cybrarians*). Four journals (33.3%) give these rights to the organization (ALECSO) or the centre (ACRSLIS), which are responsible for their journals, or the journal itself holds these rights (*KFNLJ* and *AJADI)*

IV. Articles:

PDF is the most common format in Arabian open access journals (75%), while the rest (25%) are in XML format. XML is used on web pages for bibliographic data and abstracts, with a link to download the full text in PDF format. *AJI* 's latest issue is always available as a link to a PDF file on the ALECSO's web page.

Figure (10) reveals that the most common full text languages (41.7%) are Arabic and English, followed by Arabic only (33.3 %), although all DOAJ studies have pointed out that the highest portion of journals are in one language, specifically the English language (Lone et al., 2008; Morrison, 2008; Pujar, 2014; Rufai et al., 2012; Thavamani, 2013).
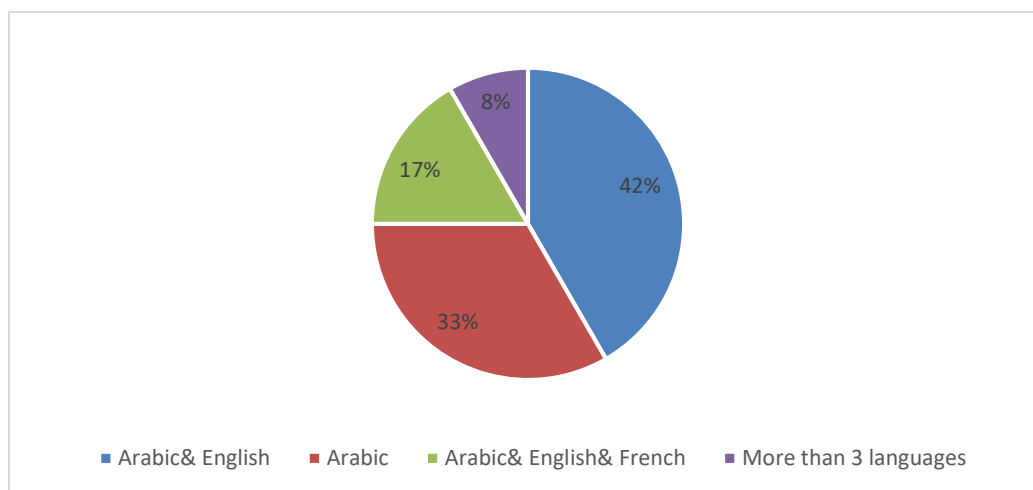

Fig. (10) Journals' full text languages

Full text of *Ialam* and *AJADI* is in three languages (Arabic, the official language of Arab Countries, English, and French, the most used second languages in Arab countries). *LIJ* is a multilingual journal; it has full text in Amazigh and other Berber languages besides the three aforementioned languages. The journal is available through Algerian Scientific Journal Platform (ASJP), and those languages are used in this regional area.

All Arabian open access journals are allowed to be downloaded; downloading an article's full text is the most lawful purpose allowed for journals' content, but it may only need registration, as in *LIJ*, in which you have to register first at ASJP (the portal that hosts the journal) for free.

Readers can download specific articles or the whole issue in one PDF file (*AJI, Ialam*, and *JLI*). In addition to downloading, some journals also permit printing (*SJLAI, KFNLJ and Cybrarians*). One journal (*JLI*) permits copying and downloading, as the journal is originally issued in printed form.

Although all journals permit downloading articles, there are no download statistics in 83.3% of journals; also, "most read articles" are found in only three journals (25%) *(LIJ, LIJ and Cybrarians)*, figure (11) shows these statistics.
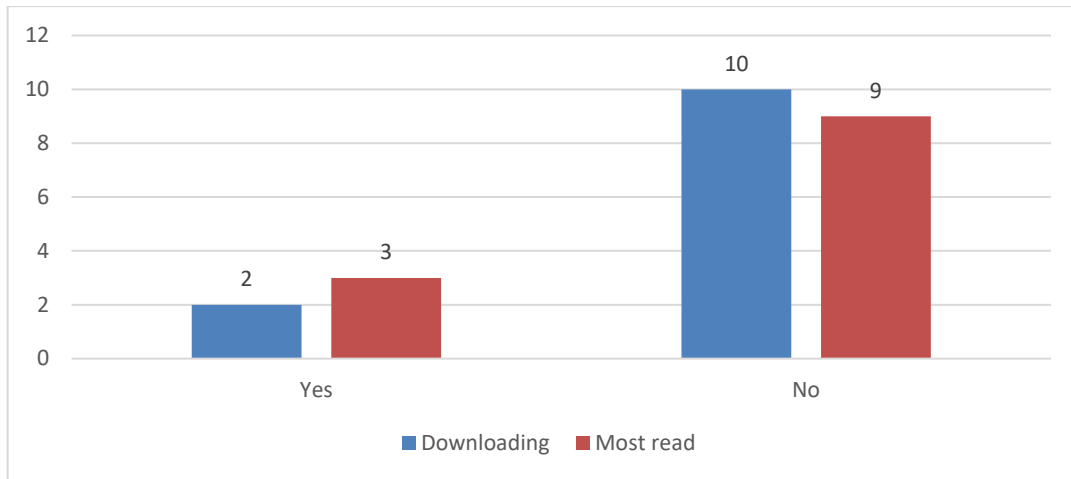
Fig.(11) journals' statistics

V. Additional features

Some journals may add "additional features" like downloading some programs or commenting on articles on journals' pages on social media to build a discussion around its topic. None of the Arabian open access journals have such "additional features"

There are no "most cited works" in all journals; all LIS Arabic literature, open access or otherwise, is not covered by any citation analysis service. Hyperlinks connect between journals' home pages and the issues' tables of contents in (66.7 %), almost all journals that have a web page; as in figure (12).

Only two journals (*SJLAI* and *JIS&T*) (16.7%) provide links to authors' articles within the same journal, while 75% of journals provide hyperlinks to authors' electronic sources. None of the journals provide a hyperlink to authors' pages in social networks.

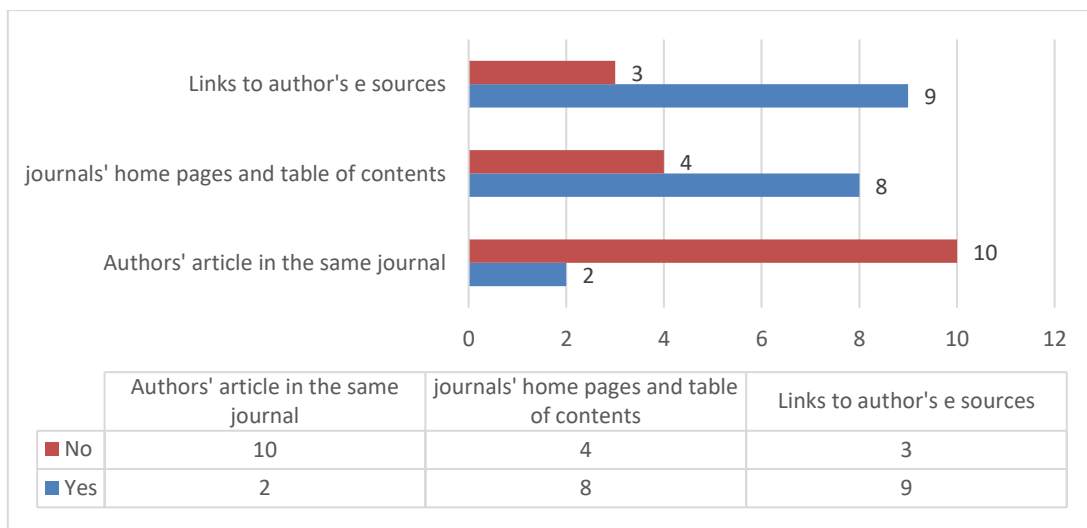|	Authors' article in the same journal	journals' home pages and table of contents	Links to author's e sources
No	10	4	3
Yes	2	8	9

Fig.(12) journals hyper links

Recommendations

There is no doubt about the importance of open access availability, specifically in the Arab world, where most countries face hard economic challenges, so the study recommends

that institutions on all levels must be encouraged to participate in open access activities, either by publishing an open access journal, transferring its journal to an open access one, building an institutional repository, or funding publication in open access journals. Journals' publishing bodies also must have a proper archiving policy for preserving their digital content on the long term. Library and information science academics and practitioners must make efforts to spread awareness on the importance of open access journals among researchers as a publishing channel and among users as an information source worth reading. Promotion and tenure committees must reconsider open access journals, and deal with them as subscription-based journals. Regional institutions, like AFLI, also have to make some efforts to assist already existing journals to reach the needed requirements to be added to DOAJ for global recognition; most Arabic open access journals can meet these requirements with some modifications to their publishing policies and their systems.

Conclusion

In response to open access initiatives, many LIS open access journals have been issued, the aim of this study was to give a wider perspective to LIS open access journals in Arab countries. There are 12 open access journals issued in Arab countries. The web pages of these journals were examined, and it was revealed that institutions are the largest publishing body, followed by scientific associations, and 75% of these journals are issued in dual formats (paper and digital). Only three journals have open access declarations on their web pages, and only 4 journals are covered by indexing services; Dar Al Mandunah covers 75% of these journals.

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