

OPEN ACCESS SCHOLARLY E-JOURNALS ON LAW: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY

Dr. Bidyut K. Mal
Rakesh Mohindra*

Abstract

With the advent of the Internet and electronic publishing, new models of scholarly communication have emerged that simultaneously complement and challenge established systems. Open Access is taken broadly to mean that accessing, downloading, and reading material is free to the entire population of Internet users, several options for the provision of that access have emerged. *Library should introduce to their users to access full text e-books, e-journals, e-database those are freely accessible from Internet. This paper deals with scholarly and peer reviewed open access journals accessible from Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) in law. Analyzed based on country, publishers, subject heading, keywords, availability of archives, frequency, indexed by, length of publishing period, total viewers etc.*

Introduction

Librarianship has shifted from use of printed and manually operated system to world wide access to information. Libraries these days have consortia, and use electronic resources and databases so that they can provide better services to the users. Modern libraries have evolved from paper-based storehouse of books and journals into distributed network of digitized information and knowledge, now known as digital libraries. Now access of information is no longer restricted to what is physically available in a particular library. Information is accessible from a wide variety of globally distributed commercial repositories such as electronic publishers and aggregators with access charge. However, it is also accessible from open access journals, open access archives, few websites and institutional repositories free of charge. Now libraries can enable worldwide access to a never-ending supply of distributed information and knowledge in electronic form that is constantly available, easily updated and convenient to use.¹

Open Access

Open access to scholarly information has been a hot topic for debate among librarians, scholars, and publishers over the last few years. The open access movement addresses by arguing for the free availability of literature on the

* DR. BIDYUT K. MAL, In-charge, Vivekanand Central Library, VBS Purvanchal University, Jaunpur-222001 (U.P.), e-mail: bidyutmal@gmail.com; RAKESH MOHINDRA, Librarian, Deptt. of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160014, e-mail: mohindra@pu.ac.in.

public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. One of the great benefits to open access is that libraries in smaller institutions or in economically disadvantaged areas around the world can have greater access to this scholarly resources.²

Open Access Journal

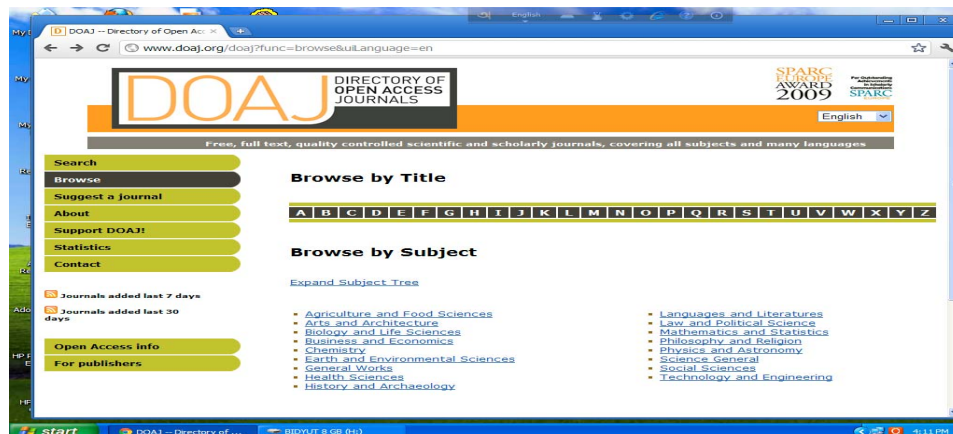
Open access journals are scholarly journals that are available online to the reader "without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet itself. Some are subsidized, and some require payment on behalf of the author. Subsidized journals are financed by an academic institution or a government information center; those requiring payment are typically financed by money made available to researchers for the purpose from a public or private funding agency, as part of a research grant. There have also been several modifications of open access journals that have considerably different natures: hybrid open access journals and delayed open access journals.³ The increasing growth of online OA journals in various disciplines is evident of various online directories. Directory of Open Access Journal is one of the most popular directory among them.

Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ)

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is website maintained by University which lists open access journals. The project defines open access journals as scientific and scholarly journals that meet high quality standards by exercising peer review or editorial quality control and "use a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access." The Budapest Open Access Initiative's definition of access is used to define required rights given to users, for the journal to be included in the DOAJ, as the rights to "read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles".

The DOAJ contained only 125 titles in 1991. In February 2005, it contained 1400. This number has increased up to 2986 in February 2008.⁴ In October 2011, the database contained 7116 journals, with an average of four journals being added each day for the month of September. The aim of DOAJ is to "increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact."⁵

Screen snapshot of DOAJ



Objectives of the study

- To enumerate the free e-journals on Law in DOAJ
- To analyze the top-level-domain on Law in DOAJ
- To know the country wise publication on Law in DOAJ
- To know the accessibility of archives of e-journal on Law in DOAJ
- To enumerate the frequency of free e-journals on Law in DOAJ
- To know the year wise publication on Law in DOAJ

Research Methodology

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) website (<http://www.doaj.org>) is browsed for the present paper. 128 e-journals on Law were searched out which is accessible till 20.11.12 from DOAJ in various languages. Out of 128 e-journals, 44 published in English language are taken for the present study those are analyzed by origin of country, domain wise, frequency of publication, starting year of publication, containing volumes in archives, charging publication fee and indexed by international directory and databases etc.

Analysis and interpretations

Table 1: List of e-journals of Law discipline in DOAJ

Sl. No.	Name of Journal	Publisher	ISSN / EISSN	Website
1	AGORA International Journal of Juridical Sciences	AGORA University Publishing House	1843-570X/ 2067-7677	http://www.juridicaljournal.univagora.ro/
2	Amsterdam Law Forum	VU University Library	1876-8156	http://www.amsterdamlawforum.org/

3	Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal	University of Hawaii	1541-244X	http://www.hawaii.edu
4	Beijing Law Review	Scientific Research Pub.	2159-4627/ 21594635	http://www.scirp.org/Journal/blr
5	Bulletin of the Transilvania University of Braşov, Series VII	Bulletin of the Transilvania Univ of Braşov Pub. House	2066-7701/ 2066-701X	http://but.unitbv.ro/BU2009
6	Comparative Law Review	Polimetrica Publisher	2038-8985/ 2038-8993	http://www.comparativelawreview.com
7	Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal	The University of Connecticut School of Law	1932-2038/ 1932-2046	http://www.law.uconn.edu
8	Duke Environmental Law and Policy	Duke University School of Law	1064-3958	http://delpf.law.duke.edu
9	Duke Journal of Comparative and International Law	Duke University School of Law	1053-6736	http://djcil.law.duke.edu/
10	Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy	Duke University School of Law	1090-1043	http://djglp.law.duke.edu/
11	Duke Law Journal	Duke University School of Law	0012-7086	http://dlj.law.duke.edu/
12	E Law – Murdoch University Electronic Journal of Law	Murdoch University School of Law	1321-8247	https://elaw.murdoch.edu.au/
13	Entertainment and Sports Law Journal	Electronic Law Journals Project	1748-944X	http://www2.warwick.ac.uk
14	Erasmus Law and Economics Review	Erasmus Law and Economics Student Society	1824-3886	http://www.eler.org
15	European Journal of Law and Technology	Queen’s University of Belfast	2042-115X	http://ejlt.org/
16	Federal Courts Law Review	Federal Courts Law Review	1936-2463	http://www.fclr.org
17	Göttingen Jr of International Law	Universitätsverlag Göttingen	1868-1581	http://www.gojil.eu/
18	Harvard Human Rights Journal	Harvard Law School	1057-5057	http://harvardhrj.com/
19	Human Rights and Human Welfare	University of Denver	1533-0834	http://www.du.edu
20	International Free and Open Source Software Law Review	International Free and Open Source Software Law Review	1877-6922	http://www.ifosslr.org

21	International Journal for Court Administration	International Association for Court Administration	2156-7964	www.iaca.ws
22	International Journal for Criminal Investigation	AIT Laboratories	2247-0271	http://www.ijci.eu/
23	International Journal of Legal Information	International Association of Law Libraries	0731-1265	http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu
24	International Journal of Non-for-Profit Law	International Center of Non-for-Profit Law	1556-5157	
25	The Internet Journal of Law, Healthcare and Ethics	Internet Scientific Publications, LLC	1528-8250	http://www.icnl.org
26	JIPITEC: Journal of Intellectual Property, Information Technology and E-Commerce Law	Digital Peer Publishing	2190-3387	http://www.jipitec.eu/
27	Journal of Information, Law and Technology	University of Warwick	1361-4169	http://go.warwick.ac.uk/jilt
28	Journal of Intellectual Property Rights	NISCAIR	0971-7544/ 0975-1076	http://nopr.niscair.res.in
29	Journal of International Commercial Law and Technology	International Association of IT Lawyers	1901-8401	http://www.jiclt.com
30	Journal of Law and Family Studies	University of Utah	1529-398X	http://epubs.utah.edu
31	Journal of Legal Analysis	Oxford University Press	2161-7201	http://jla.oxfordjournals.org/
32	Journal of Philosophy, Science and Law	The Journal of Philosophy, Science and Law	1549-8549	http://www6.miami.edu
33	Journal of Politics and Law	Canadian Center of Science and Education	19139047/ 19139055	http://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/jpl/index
34	The Jury Expert	American Society of Trial Consultants	1943-2208	http://www.astcweb.org
35	Law and Contemporary Problems	Duke University School of Law	0023-9186	http://lcp.law.duke.edu/
36	Law Review	Union of Jurists of Romania	2246-9435	http://www.internationallawreview.eu/

37	Law, Social Justice and Global Development	University of Warwick	1467-0437	http://www2.warwick.ac.uk
38	Merkourios: Utrecht Journal of International and European Law	Igitur: Utrecht Pub. And Archiving Services	0927-460X	http://www.merkourios.org
39	Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review	University of Michigan	1528-8625	http://www.mttl.org
40	Mizan Law Review	St. Mary's University College	1998-9881	http://ajol.info
41	Northwestern Journal of Tech and Intellectual Property	Northwestern University School of Law	1549-8271	http://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu
42	Open Forensic Science Journal	Bentham Open	1874-4028	http://www.benthamscience.com
43	Open Law Journal	Bentham Open	1874-950X	http://www.benthamscience.com
44	Public Space: The Journal of Law and Social Justice	UTSePress, University of Technology	1835-0550	http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au

Table -1 shows the list of Law journals, which are accessible free by name, publisher, ISSN/E-ISSN no. with website so any user can search the required journal easily.

Table 2: Subject keywords

Sl No.	Name of Journal	Keywords
1	AGORA International Jr of Juridical Sciences	criminal law, civil law, forensic medicine, criminology
2	Amsterdam Law Forum	international law, international relations
3	Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal	law, Asia
4	Beijing Law Review	civil law, criminal law, economic law, environmental law, public int. law
5	Bulletin of the Transilvania University of Braşov, Series VII	sociology, anthropology, psychology, pedagogy, social work, law, philosophy, history
6	Comparative Law Review	comparative law, international law, legal theory, judicial practice, public policy
7	Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal	law
8	Duke Environmental Law and Policy	law, environmental law
9	Duke Jr of Comparative and International Law	law

10	Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy	law, gender
11	Duke Law Journal	law
12	E Law – Murdoch University Electronic Jr of Law	law
13	Entertainment and Sports Law Journal	socio-legal studies, football, entertainment law
14	Erasmus Law and Economics Review	law, economics
15	European Journal of Law and Technology	law, technology, intellectual property, computer crime, e-commerce, privacy, data protection, patents, copyright, trademarks, e-governance
16	Federal Courts Law Review	law
17	Gottingen Journal of International Law	European law, international relations
18	Harvard Human Rights Journal	human rights, civil rights
19	Human Rights and Human Welfare	human rights, human security, humanitarianism, development
20	International Free and Open Source Software Law Review	free and open source software, open source software, law, copyright
21	International Journal for Court Administration	International Association for Court Administration
22	International Journal for Criminal Investigation	forensic science, print identification & analysis, fingerprints, toxicology
23	International Journal of Legal Information	library and information science, librarianship, law libraries, legal literature, legal information research
24	International Journal of Non-for-Profit Law	civil society, law, legislation
25	The Internet Jr of Law, Healthcare and Ethics	ethics, healthcare, medical law
26	JIPITEC: Journal of Intellectual Property, Information Technology and E-Commerce Law	intellectual property, electronic commerce law, European law
27	Journal of Information, Law and Technology	law
28	Journal of Intellectual Property Rights	patents, copyright, trademark, designs
29	Journal of International Commercial Law and Tech.	international commercial law, business law, IT law, information technology
30	Journal of Law and Family Studies	family studies, domestic relations, sociological jurisprudence, law
31	Journal of Legal Analysis	legal theory
32	Journal of Philosophy, Science and Law	philosophy, science, law
33	Journal of Politics and Law	politics, law, international relations, government research
34	The Jury Expert	law, communication, social sciences, psychology
35	Law and Contemporary Problems	law

36	Law Review	universal jurisdiction, comparative law, European Union law
37	Law, Social Justice and Global Development	social justice, law, human rights
38	Merkourios: Utrecht Journal of International and European Law	international law, European law
39	Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review	law, technology law, patents, trademarks, copyright, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, internet law
40	Mizan Law Review	national law, Ethiopian law
41	Northwestern Journal of Technology and Intellectual Property	law, biotechnology, copyrights, Internet, media, patents, telecommunications, trademarks
42	Open Forensic Science Journal	criminal justice administration, forensic medicine
43	Open Law Journal	international law
44	Public Space: The Jr. of Law and Social Justice	legal theory, social justice, cross-discipline

Table-2 indicates the useful keywords for searching e-journals on law in DOAJ.

Figure 1: Distribution of top-level-Domain

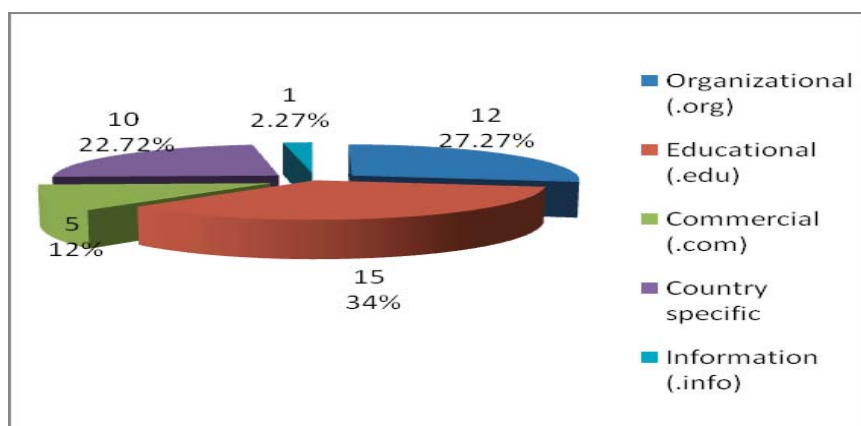


Figure-1 shows the top-level-Domain (TLD) distribution of OA e-journals from the Web addresses. Out of 44 e-journals, highest number i.e. 15 (34%) are from educational (.edu) domain followed by 12 (27.27%), 10 (22.72%), 5 (12%) and 1(2.27%) from Organizational (.org), country specific, Commercial (.com) and Information (.info) domain respectively.

Figure 2: Origin of country

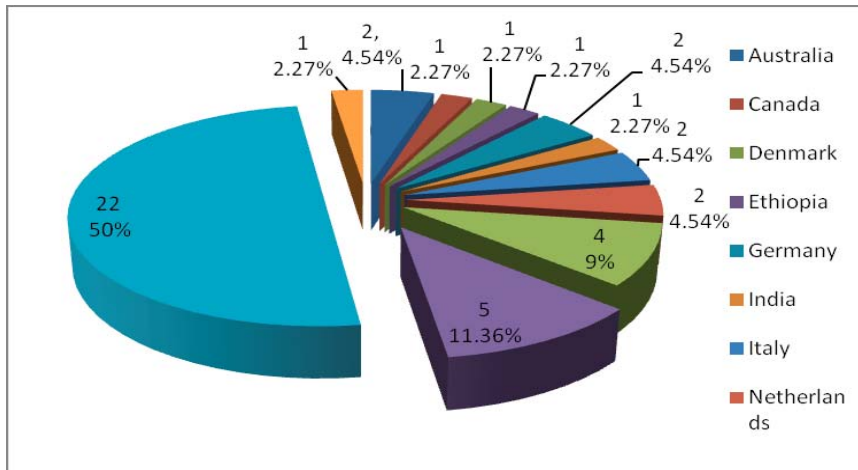


Figure-2 depicts the origin of country wise distribution of OA e-journals. United States is publishing highest number of e-journals i.e. 22 (50%) followed by United Kingdom 5 (11.36), Romania 4 (9%), Australia, Germany, Italy and Netherlands 2 (4.54%) and Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, India and United of Utah 1 (2.27%).

Figure 3: Frequency of publication

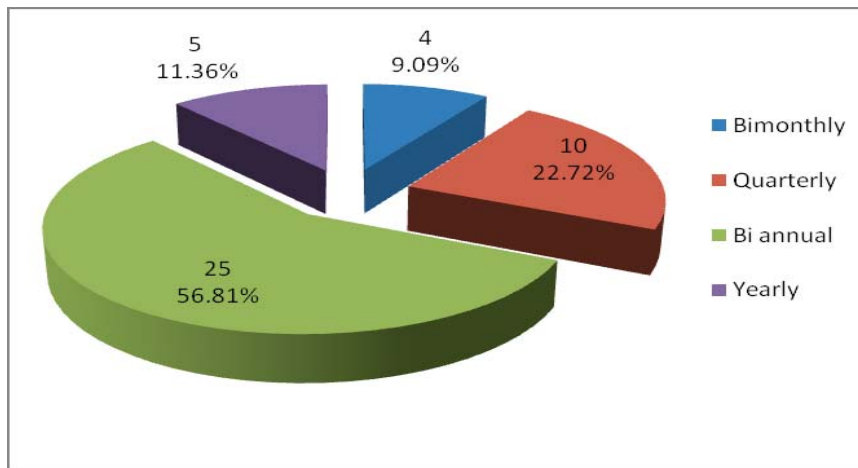


Figure-3 gives the information about the frequency of publication of OA e-journals. Maximum numbers i.e. 25 (56.81%) e-journals are publishing bi-annually, followed by 10 (22.27%), 5 (11.36%) and 4 (9.09%) are Quarterly, Yearly and Bimonthly.

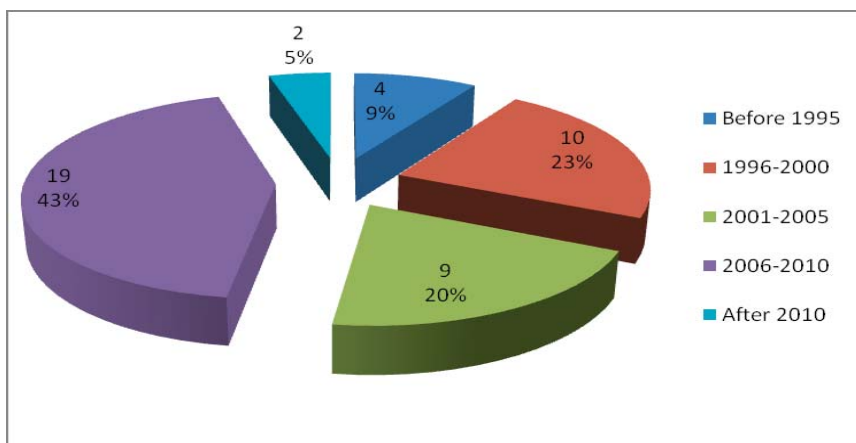
Figure 4: Year of first publication

Figure-4 show the details of the distribution of first publishing year of OA e-journals. The highest number of e-journals i.e. 19 (43.18%) started to publish from 2006-2010 followed by 10 (22.72), 9 (20.45%), 4 (9.09%) and 2 (4.54%) from between 1996-2000, 2001-2005, before 1995 and after 2010 respectively.

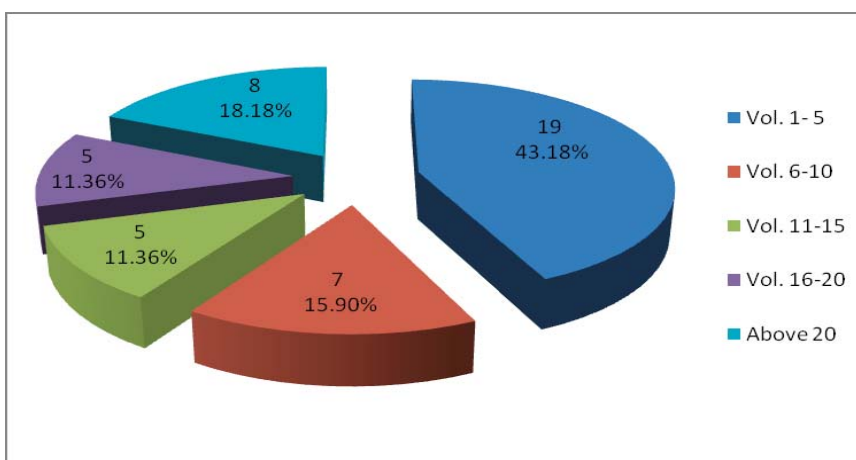
Figure 5: Number of volumes containing in archives

Figure-5 deals with the numbers of volumes containing in archives. Maximum numbers of e-journals i.e. 19 (43.18%) containing only 1-5 volumes followed by 8 (18.18%), 7 (15.90%), and 5 (11.36%) from above 20 Vol., Vol. 6-10, Vol. 11-15 and Vol. 16-20 respectively.

Figure 6: Peer reviewed publication

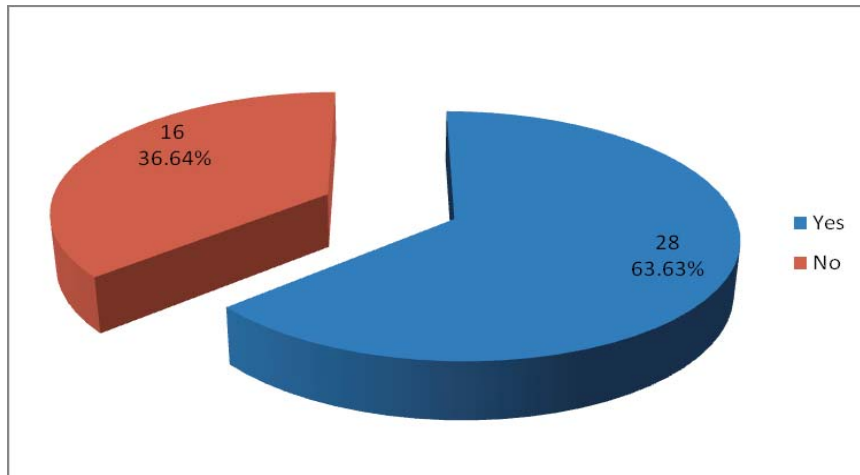


Figure-6 shows the information regarding peer reviewed publications. Maximum number i.e. 28 (63.63%) e-journals are peer reviewed where as only 16 (36.64%) are not following peer reviewed process.

Figure 7: Refereed and non refereed journal

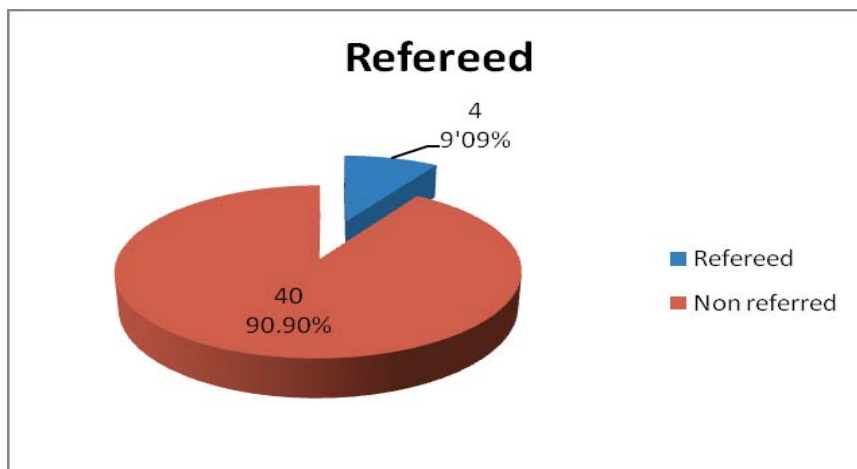


Figure-7 shows the information regarding refereed and non refereed journal. Maximum number i.e. 40 (90.90%) e-journals are non referred where as only 4 (9.09%) are refereed.

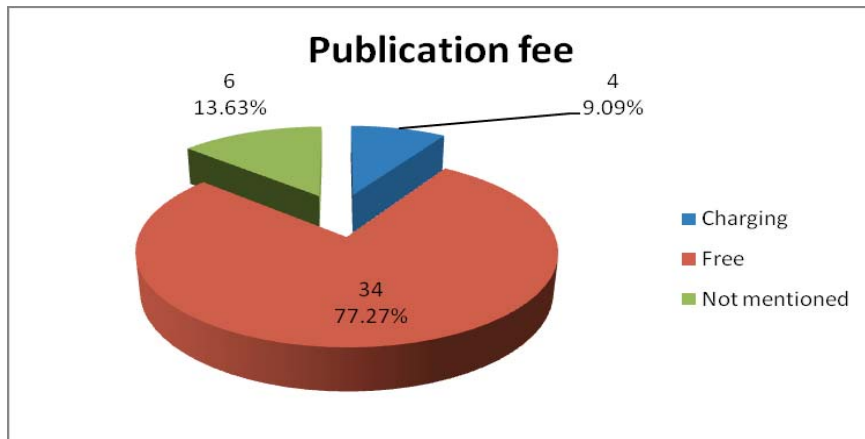
Figure 8: Charging publication fee

Figure-8 shows the information of publication fee. Maximum e-journals i.e. 34 (77.27%) are publishing fee of cost where as 6 (13.63%) are charging publication fee but 4 (9.09%) journals did not mention in this regard.

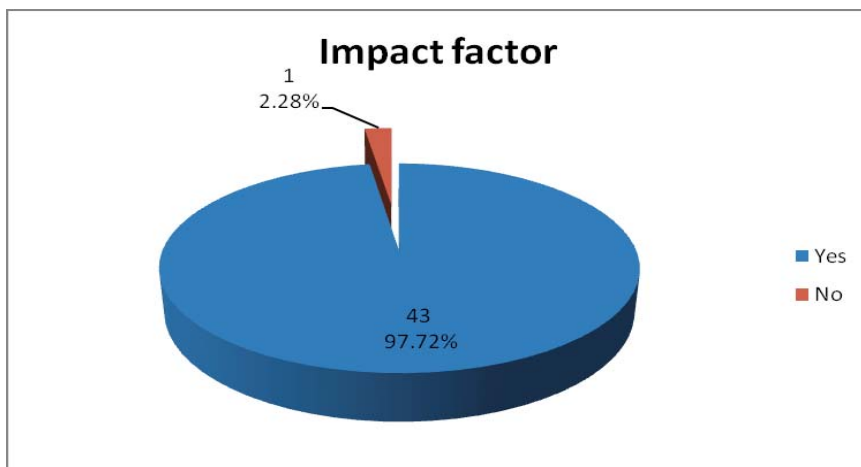
Figure 9: Impact factor

Figure-9 indicates about the impact factor of e-journals. Only 1 (2.28%) e-journals shows their impact factor that is publishing from India whereas 43(97.72%) journals do not show their impact factor.

Conclusion

Open Access journals are one of the best solution for the academic libraries, those do not have sufficient budget for e-journals. Among the OA e-journals of DOAJ in law discipline would help the organizations that cannot afford to subscribe or purchase expensive e-journals. This listing should be updated from user end and the websites need to be up to date, down loading and storing them

involves copyright and IPR issues. DOAJ is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals their by promoting their increased usage and impact. Research scholar, faculty members, law professionals can brows the open access e-journals from DOAJ site to access the free online journals on law discipline. Research scholars, faculty members, students and law professionals can publish their research work in online open access journals for wider visibility of their research work and for greater impact factor and citation index.

Reference

1. Neeti S Karanjkar (200) Use of Open Access E-resource for Management users. Accessed on 20th Nov., 2011 from <http://www.imdr.edu/Use%20of%20Open%20Access%20E%20Resources.html>
2. Edward M. Corrado (2005) The Importance of Open Access, Open Source, and Open Standards for Libraries. Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, Spring 2005.
3. "Open access journal". Accessed on 20th Nov., 2011 from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access_journal
4. Mukherjee, Bhaskar (2008). Open Access scholarly publishing in library and information science. Annals of Library and Information Studies, 55 (9), pp.212-223.
5. "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia". Accessed on 20th Nov., 2011 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directory_of_Open_Access_Journals.