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VOL 1, ISSUE 12, JUNE 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BALANI GROUP OF COMPANIES

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- Create an ORCID ID to unify your research identity
- Develop a professional website or blog about your research

3. Strategic Dissemination

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- Present at both academic conferences and public engagement events

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- Collaborate with researchers from different institutions/countries
- Participate in interdisciplinary projects
- Engage with policymakers and industry partners

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- Include alt-text for images and figures
- Create descriptive, keyword-rich file names for supplementary materials

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- Monitor downloads and citations
- Showcase media coverage of your work

7. Conference & Workshop Participation

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- Organize workshops or special sessions
- Network with journal editors and potential collaborators

8. Multimedia Content

- Create video abstracts explaining your research
- Develop podcasts or webinar presentations
- Produce visual abstracts or infographics

Research Leaders: Shift in Global Research Landscape

China has extended its lead in research output, according to data released in the latest Nature Index Research Leaders(data refers to full year 2024 data only – see notes to editors). The country's Share, the Nature Index's key metric of author contribution to high-quality research, reached 32,122, a 17% increase on 2023, with the region now having eight institutions in the top 10 compared to 7 in 2023. Asian countries as a whole enjoyed greater dominance, with drops seen from Western institutions in the number of top positions held within the rankings.

The Nature Research Leaders is released annually and based on data from the previous year. It is part of the Nature Index which tracks contributions to research articles published in 145 high-quality natural science and health science publications, from many publishers, and selected by an independent group of researchers.

The data reflect a profound shift in the global research landscape," Simon Baker, Chief Editor, Nature Index, said: "China's continued investment in science and technology is translating into rapid sustained growth in high-quality research output, which in areas such as physical sciences and chemistry is now far outstripping previously dominant Western nations, including the US.

Other key regional analysis from this years' table showed:

- **Strong growth in research output for countries across Asia.** South Korea and India were the only two other countries in the top 10, other than China, to increase their adjusted Share from 2023 — by 4.1% and 2% respectively. South Korea rose to 7th place in the overall rankings, overtaking Canada. Singapore, ranked 16th, up from 18th, posted a 7% increase — the second-largest increase among the top 20 countries after China. Japan was one exception with a 9% decrease.
- **Previously dominant Western nations recorded a decline in their adjusted Share for the second year in a row** with Canada, France, Switzerland, the UK and US, all recording declines of at least 7%. Australia and Germany showed declines of less than 3%.
- Chinese institutions now occupy **eight of the top 10 positions in the institutional rankings**. The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) retained its top spot. The University of Science and Technology of China takes 3rd place, while Zhejiang University (Share 819.57) climbed from 10th to 4th.
- Several Western institutions saw a decline in ranking. Germany's Max Planck Society fell from 4th to 9th place, while the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) dropped out of the top 10 for the first time, ranking at 13th place. Harvard University recorded an 18% drop in adjusted Share, although it held 2nd place, but Stanford University and MIT both fell in ranking – Stanford from 15th to 16th place, and MIT from 14th to 17th place. The US National Institutes of Health also saw a change, falling out of the top 20 to 24th place.

Courtsey: https://www.igroupnet.com/

Face to Face

BigInfo spoke on a range of issues to well-known library professional, Dr. Shantanu Ganguly who is currently serving as Director, HDFC Library, Ashoka University, Sonepat.
Some excerpts:

1. Please share your professional journey and its important landmarks with our readers.

My professional journey started in 1990, when I joined Delhi University in the Department of Botany as Technical Assistant, It was the beginning and after that I served other organisations like VHAI, National Productivity Council, TERI, IIM Lucknow, AIIMS, NIMS University and now Ashoka University.

I have worked in various capacities in these organisations and over the period I have gained a profound knowledge, experience and skills while working in the diverse sectors knowledge domain. While I was working with Voluntary Health Association of India acronym is VHAI as Program Head, I looked into that how health based knowledge organization used vast number of resources for their developmental work as well as for strategizing some of the assignments at grassroot level.

As Librarian and Information Officer at National Productivity Council, which is under Ministry of Industry, I worked very closely with the various researchers who were providing knowledge expertise in the field of SMEs and MSME. During my tenure at Indian institute of Management Lucknow, I worked very closely with all the faculty members who are working as the management experts and consultants while working with different industrial houses. The breakthrough came to my profile, when I joined Tata energy Research Institute (TERI), where I started as a library professional but later on built my expertise and knowledge in the field of knowledge management, and project management and capacity building etc. At TERI I gained expertise in doing projects, which are funded by Govt of India, bi-lateral and multi-lateral organisations. I have also conceptualised Knowledge Management System and deployed it too. One of the key achievements was to organise 6 editions of ICDL (a flagship conference of TERI).

After TERI, I joined All India institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi during COVID period. Jointly with the Research Department of AIIMS, I also developed a complete database of COVID virus, which was released by the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare. During my tenure in NIMS University, Rajasthan as Director of School of Management, I was heading 4 verticals that is School of Management, School of Fashion and Design, School of Aviation, Travel and Tourism and School of Hotel Management. My current assignment is in Ashoka University where I am serving as Director Library Services from 1st February 2024 onwards. Today Ashoka University is one of the leading multidisciplinary research universities in the country.

I am also closely working with the research and development office of Ashoka University and going to organise one of the biggest research communication conclave, scheduled to be held from 17 to 19 December 2025 at Ashoka University.

2. Please share with us your vision for an academic libraries in the light of an ever-evolving information landscape.

In a rapidly changing information landscape, my vision for an academic library is a dynamic, inclusive knowledge hub that bridges traditional scholarship with digital innovation. It should preserve access to knowledge while advancing digital literacy, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary research.

By integrating AI-powered tools, digital repositories, VR/AR, blockchain, IoT, and data analytics, libraries can enhance user experiences and research capabilities. Despite challenges like budget constraints and shifting expectations, libraries must adopt user-centric design, championing open access, and foster collaboration and co-creation. Ultimately, academic libraries should evolve as adaptive, technology-driven spaces aligned with institutional goals, supporting lifelong learning and global knowledge exchange. Academic Libraries should adopt and adapt Open-Source Software and bring in innovative services, which are more user-friendly and user centric.

4.Your comments on changing information needs of the researchers and response of the publishing industry.

Researchers demand faster, more seamless access to diverse, credible, and interdisciplinary resources. The emphasis has shifted toward open access, data transparency, and collaborative tools. Researchers also require support for managing large datasets and publishing in high-impact platforms.

The publishing industry is responding through several approaches:

· Expanding **Open Access** models, including transformative agreements.

· Developing **preprint servers** for faster dissemination of findings.

· Investing in **AI tools** for manuscript editing, peer review, and plagiarism detection.

· Offering **enhanced metadata and APIs** to support discoverability and integration with research workflows.

5. How do you pick up learning resources for your library and what mechanism you follow to evaluate these?

The selection of learning resources is driven by academic priorities, faculty input, user feedback, and usage analytics. We follow a well-defined acquisition policy that emphasizes relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness, and accessibility. Our process involves:

· **Consultation with academic departments** to understand curricular and research needs.

· **Review of usage data** to identify high-demand resources and underutilized materials.

· **Trial access and user surveys** for evaluating new databases and e-books.

· **Benchmarking against peer institutions** to ensure comprehensive coverage.

· **Periodic review by a Library Committee**, ensuring alignment with institutional goals and budget constraints. ********

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

iGroup sponsored International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS-2025) held on June 26–27, 2025 at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. The conference was organised by Sri Lanka Library Association. Mr. Tristan Barter, Head, iGroup Asia Pacific, Mr. Arjin BJ, & Mr. Christy Lucos from iGroup India attended the conference. iGroup team interacted with a large number of delegates and apprised them about the large number of iGroup library products and services.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Devika Madalli, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, on being honoured with the prestigious SALIS - LIS Best Professional Award 2024.

This recognition is a testament to your remarkable leadership, unwavering commitment, and invaluable contributions to the field of Library and Information Science in India. Your vision continues to inspire professionals and institutions alike to strive for innovation, inclusivity, and academic excellence.

Wishing you many more such accolades as you illuminate the path for the LIS community nationwide.

Dr. Lata Suresh, Head of the Knowledge Resource Centre and Centre for Institutional Partnerships & Corporate Communications at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Manesar, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, delivered the keynote address at the Academic Libraries: Trends and Innovation (ALTI) 2025 International Conference, held at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Bishkek, on June 12–13, 2025.

Congratulatins to Dr. Akhtar Hussain, Head - Library, Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Ghaziabad, for being honored with the prestigious SALIS National Best Librarian Award for the year 2024.

The award was presented by the Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS) during the award ceremony of SALIS 2025 National Conference on "Reimagining and Transforming Libraries into Active Learning Hubs to Accelerate Global Education," held on 27th June 2025 at Crescent Innovation and Incubation Council, Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

This recognition is a testament to Dr. Hussain's outstanding contributions to the field of library and information science and his leadership in transforming academic libraries.

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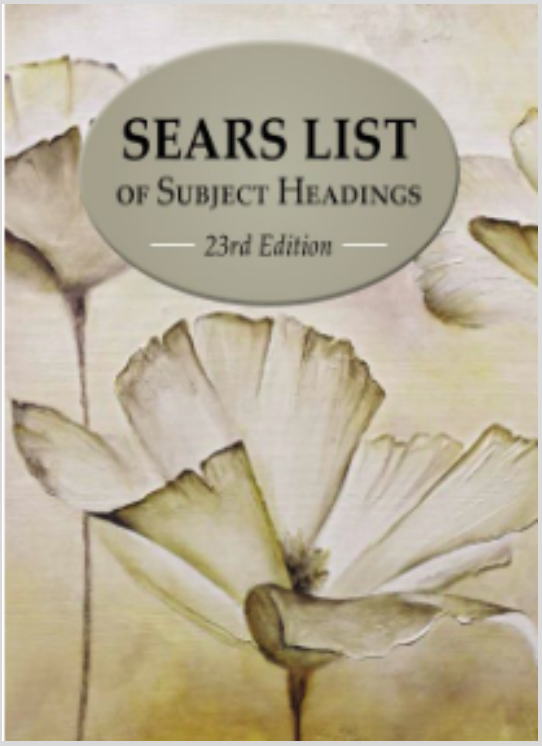

Sears List of Subject Headings

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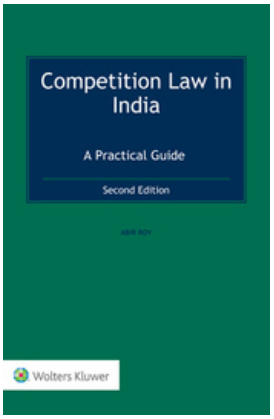

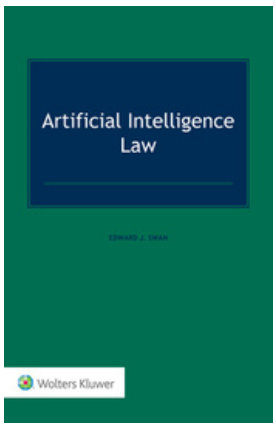

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Thank you for reading!

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Balani Infotech Pvt. Ltd.

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