

Examining the reference accuracy: a case of two LISc Journals

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This investigation was performed to evaluate the references error of references in the article publications in the Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association(JALIS) Volume 70(1-4), 2021 issue and 50 from the Journal of Web Librarianship(JWL) Volume 15(1-4), 2021 issue.100 references were examined (50 references each Journal).39 (12 major Errors and 27 Minor errors) errors were find out of 100 references.

I. INTRODUCTION:

When used in scientific literature publication, the accuracy of the Reference List is the highest quality measuring instrument, and it has a very high impact on the articles in medical field along with other academic fields. The reader can find excellent relevant literature from the reference list. It is important for authors to accurately cite references in their articles.

The use of references is an important aspect of scientific writing. They are useful for citing past researches and validating the author's statements. Citation and quotation mistake rates have been observed in a wide range of publications from diverse specialties around the world, according to studies.

As IdrisaPandit(1993) pointed out, inaccuracies in article reference lists cause issues in different researchfields. Citation errors, according to Alfred Yankauer (1990) are "... Errors of commission or omission in the printing of the reference" (p. 38).

A proper reference, or an accurate reference, according to C. A. Doms (1989), is "one in which all included elements are identical to the source" (p. 442).Cross-checking and verifying each reference from primary sources of information is the only way to ensure that references in articles are reliable.Citation accuracy is a skill that every writer should possess.(Gupta, 2017).

A reference list gives a complete background for the information sources that were reviewed and used directly or indirectly during the research.

Frank Place, Jr., a century ago, observed that bibliographical references are regularly "called upon to locate papers" that have not yet been indexed. Several eminent scholars, he pointed out, treat "a reference from another's bibliography as if it were therefore Gospel truth itself." References "offer a technique of analyzing the article; [and] assist in determining an author's reliability," according to Foreman and Kirchhoff.Many academics, in reality, do not study primary sources of information before referencing them. Because the cited sources are not available in the academic libraries, they obtain them through interlibrary loan or other means.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Gupta (2021)in Journal of Scientometric Research, an Indian scientometric journal, examines citation errors and the level of reference consistency (JSR). In the JSR, volume 9, number 1, January-April 2020, there had been 174 journal citations appended to eight research articles. The findings demonstrate that 44.25 percent (77) of JSR citations were erroneous, while the remaining 55.75 percent (97) were error-free. A total of 116 inaccuracies were found in 77 erroneous citations, with 59 minor and 57 significant problems. To strengthen the accuracy of references in the JSR, need a comprehensive reference management system or procedure.

Gupta (2020) looks at the references in fourteen Ph.D. dissertations in Library and Information Science (LIS) that were submitted to BanasthaliVidyapith in Rajasthan, India. A total of 1721 journal citations were thoroughly vetted, with the names of the authors, article titles, journal titles, year, volume number, issue number, and pages

divided into seven bibliographic components. The original journal articles were used to verify these elements. The findings suggest that 22.08 percent (380) of the references in LIS theses were error-free, whereas 77.92 percent (1341) had problems. There were a total of 2869 flaws found in 1341 incorrect references, consisting of 1231 errors as major and 1638 errors as minor. Citation training in the Ph.D. course work programme, according to the findings, is essential in encouraging better citation practices.

Gupta (2018) investigated the accuracy of references. The purpose of this study was to specify the amount of errors in references, research papers submitted in Libres: Library and Information Science Research e-Journal (vol. 26, issue 2, Dec. 2016). Seven groupings were formed after comprehensive examination of 62 journal citations and comparing them to the source publications. Non-journal citations were not used by the study's authors. The results showed that 39 (63%) of the Libre citations were incorrect, while only 23 (37%) were accurate. A total of 50 errors were found in 62 references, there were 18 minor citation errors and 32 were as found major error.

Gupta (2017) investigated the reference accuracy of two important Indian library and information science journals, Annals of Library and Information Studies and DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology. For the purpose of verification, a total of 118 sources were examined. There were just 33% (39) references that were correct. 79 incorrect references had 151 errors. With 71 (47%) critical errors and 80 (53%) minor errors were found. The average amount of errors was 1.28. (number of errors ratio) A standard procedure must be used in both journals to maintain the accuracy of references.

Samad et al. (2013) assessed and compared the errors in 200 citations (100 for each publication) appended to works published in Pakistan in 2008, the "Journal of Pakistan Medical Association" and the "Journal of the College of Physicians and Surgeons." Only 19 (9.5%) of the articles were deemed to be error-free.

Adhikari (2009) investigated the accuracy of 30 randomly selected references in papers published in three indexed journals in Nepal from January 2007 to December 2008, namely "Journal of Nepal Medical Association," "Kathmandu University Medical Journal," and "Nepal Medical College Journal" (NMCJ). The correctness of references was checked by breaking them down into six components and comparing them to the primary sources. For verification, the references listed in the indexing journals were taken into

account. According to the findings, 88.4%, 88.9%, and 76.7% of the references in "Nepal Medical College Journal," "Journal of Nepal Medical Association," and NMCJ, JNMA, and "Kathmandu University Medical Journal."

Gupta et al. (2005) determined the reference and quotation accuracy of "Indian Pediatrics," (Vol-39, Year 2002). They validated 176 citation out of 322 referenced and discover that 39.2% (69) of the references contained citation errors, while 8.6% (15) had quotation inaccuracies. They recommend that writers who submit to journal articles double-check the references mentioned in their works and made a significant effort to compile their references.

According to C. A. Doms (1989) "42 percent of references in dentistry publications were erroneous". Thirty percent of the inaccuracies were major, such as inaccurate author names, title of the article or journal. Author checked a 500 references, which were chosen at random from the March 1987 issues of five dental publications. Each journal yielded a total of one hundred references. From the original documents and indexing sources, all bibliographic components of each reference were analysed. All of the sources were divided into two categories: correct and erroneous. The number of inaccurate references was counted and then divided into minor and significant mistakes (p. 443).

Boyce and Banning (1979) discovered 13.6 percent and 10.7 percent total mistakes in 487 citations from the 1976 issues of the "Journal of the American Society for Information Science" and the "Personnel and Guidance Journal," respectively. They divided citation errors into five categories: erroneous author name, improper book/article title, incorrect journal title, inaccurate entry, and omission errors.

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH:

In this study, the key aims are:

- Identifying both Errors (Major and Minor) in references.

III. METHODOLOGY

One hundred article references were picked, 50 from the JALIS (Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association), Vol. 70(1-4), 2021 issue and 50 from the JWJ (Journal of Web Librarianship) Volume 15(1-4), 2021 issue (JWL). If the original source was unavailable, Every citation mentioned in an article was carefully examined either from the original document or from other additional sources such as Google Scholar, ResearchGate and academia, as

well as indexing and abstracting sources. In this study, Dom's approach was used to categorize errors as Significant Errors and Minor Errors in references, with the missing issue number being included as a major error. Non-journal references were eliminated from the study, such as book references, conference proceedings, theses and dissertations, websites, and reports.

First, the references were split in two categories: correct and incorrect references. A reference was accurate if it was completely (100%) accurate and corresponded to the matched the actual article. primary source. An improper reference was one that differed from the actual article in some way.

Errors were classified into two categories: "major and minor errors." By type of error, the errors were divided into the following seven groups (Names of different authors The correct article title, the journal's name and details, the volume and issue numbers, the year, and the page). Minor author name initial mistake, minor errors in article title, wrong last page number, and punctuation errors were among the minor errors. The incorrect or missing and Author surname Spelling, incorrect author(s), erroneous or absent article title, incomplete or inappropriate journal name, missing or wrong(volume, issue, year of publication, and the first page detail were among the major errors (Gupta, 2017, 2018, 2020).

Table:1-Number of Errors in Citing References

Journal Name	Total Number of References Verified = a	Number of Errors = b	Average Number of Errors $c = b/a$	Percentage of Errors $D = (b/\sum b)*100$
JALIA	50	19	0.38	0.48
JWL	50	20	0.40	0.51
Total	$\sum a=100$	$\sum b=39$	0.39	100

Numbers of Errors

In today's world, everything is based on technology, and references are the most important aspect of academic writing. Online bibliographical databases and citation management tools are now available via the internet. In the academic field, references are unquestionably necessary, beneficial

and crucial in identifying and calculating the authors (Gupta, 2017 & Gupta, 2018).

The number of errors cited by the author in two library and information science publications is shown in Table 1. There were 39 errors out of 100 references, with an average error rate of 0.39.

Table: 2-Number of Major Errors in Citing References

Name of the Journal	Total Number of Verified References = a	Major Error = b	Percentage of Major Errors $c = (b/\sum b)*100$
JALIA	50	3	0.25
JWL	50	9	0.75
Total	100	12	100

The details of major errors in selected references are presented in Table-2. In the investigation, 12 major errors were discovered among 100 references

from two Library and information science publications. JALIA had the lowest (03) major errors after the analysis.

Table:3 –Number of Minor Errors in References

Journal	Total number of references verified = a	Minor Error = b	Percentage of minor errors $c = (b/\sum b)*100$
JALIA	50	16	0.59
JWL	50	11	0.40
Total	100	27	100

Minor mistakes have little effect on the search and retrieval of cited information sources, but they do diverge from the referencing format's consistency and uniformity. Information extraction can be disturbed by minor flaws in electronic databases, indexing, and abstracting methods. The

spread of minor errors in references is seen in Table 3. A total of 100 article references inspected, there were 27 minor errors discovered. JWL (11 Error) made fewer minor errors than JALIA (16Errors).

Table: 4-Accuracy Level in Citing References

Journal	Total number of references verified = a	References Correct=b	References incorrect =c	Level of Accuracy in percentage d=(b/a)*100
JALIA	50	33	17	66%
JWL	50	37	13	74%
Total	∑a=100	∑b=70	∑c=30	70%

The level of accuracy in references in the two International LIS journals is shown in Table 4. Accuracy is an important criterion for evaluating quality. Only 70 (JALIA-33 & JWL-37) of the 100 references confirmed from original sources as well as other online indexing and abstracting tools of the both journals were correct, while 30 (30%)

(JALIA-17 & JWL-13) were incorrect. References have a 70 percent accuracy rate. This shows that only 70 of a 100 article references are correct, while the rest 30 are incorrect. Erroneous citations are mostly the fault of the authors. The editors of the journals are likewise held to the same standard.

Table:5 -Citing Authors Name as Errors

Name of Citing Author's as Errors	JALIA	JWL	Total	Percentage
Omission Errors	7	5	12	92.31
Addition/ Spelling Errors	0	1	1	07.69
Punctuation Errors	0	0	0	0.00
Total	7	6	13	100

The inaccuracies in citing the author's name are shown in Table 5. The most common errors are omissions (92.31 percent), addition/spelling errors (07.69 percent), and punctuation problems (0.79%). (00.00 %). Two

tables (Tables 6 and 7) contain lists of errors in citing author names in JALIS and JWL journals. Spelling mistakes, omission of initials, and punctuation errors are all kinds of errors in citing the author's name.

Table: 6–List of Errors in Name of Citing Author's in JALIA

S. No	Name of Author(s) as Cited	Name of Author(s) as Reference Pattern (Correct part are Highlighted)	Type of Errors with Reason
1	Dowling, W.	Dowling, W. <u>C</u> .	Initial missing- Minor Error
2	Dalton. M	Dalton. M. <u>S</u> .	Initial Missing- Minor
3	Arnott, M. F.	<u>Fraser</u> - Arnott, M.	Wrong Surname- Major Error
4	Neuman, G., & Wright, J.	Neuman, G. <u>A</u> ., & Wright, J.	Initial Missing - Minor Error

5	Beretta, P., Abdi, E. S., & Bruce, C.	Beretta, P., <u>SayyadAbdim</u> , E., & Bruce, C.	Wrong Surname- Major Error
6	Featherstone, R. M., Boldt, R. G., Torabi, N., &Konard, S	Featherstone, R. M., Boldt, R. G., Torabi, N., &Konard, S.- <u>L</u> .	Initial Missing- Minor error
7	Miller, D.	Miller, D. <u>L</u> .	Initial Missing- Minor Error

Table: 7- Errors in Errors in Name of Citing Author's in JWL

S. No	Name of Author(s) as Cited	Name of Author(s) as Reference Pattern (Correct part are Highlighted)	Type of Errors with Reason
1	Diaz, K. R.	<u>Diaz, K.</u>	Initial Addition- Minor Error
2	Courtois, M. P., Higgins, M. E., &Aditya, K.	Courtois, M. P., Higgins, M. E., & <u>Kapoor, A.</u>	Wrong Surname- Major Error
3	Cox, A. M., Kennan, M., Lyon, L., &Pinfield, S	Cox, A. M., Kennan, M. <u>A.</u> , Lyon, L., &Pinfield, S.	Initial Missing - Minor Error
4	Hanson, K., Bakker, T., Svirsky, M., Neuman, A., & Rambo, N.	Hanson, K. <u>L.</u> , Bakker, T. <u>A.</u> , Svirsky, M. <u>A.</u> , Neuman, A. <u>C.</u> , & Rambo, N.	Initial Missing - Minor Error
5	Alvarez, I. B., Silva, N. S., Correia, L. S.	Alvarez, I. B., Silva, N. S. <u>A.</u> , Correia, L. S.	Initial Missing- Minor Error
6	Cox, A. M., Kennan, M., Lyon, L., Pinfield, S., &Sbaffi, L.	Cox, A. M., Kennan, M. <u>A.</u> , Lyon, L., Pinfield, S., &Sbaffi, L.	Initial Missing- Minor Error

Table: 8 - Referencing Error in Article Titles

Referencing Errors in Titles	JALIA	JWL	Total	Percentage
Wrong/ Missing Title	0	1	1	50%
Addition/ Spelling Errors	1	0	1	50%
Total	1	1	2	100%

One of the most important parts of a bibliographic reference is an article's title, usually reveals the entire theme of the work. The referring problems in

the article title are shown in Table 8. JWJ was more conscious of title mistakes than JALIA.

Table: 9 - Referencing Error in Article Titles in JALIA

S. No	Article Title as Occurs in Journal	Actual Name of Article Title (Correct part are Highlighted)	Types of errors
1	When Classification Becomes Censorship	When Classification Becomes Censorship: <u>An Analysis of the Neutralisation and Resistance of Film Censorship in Contemporary Australia</u>	Words Missing - Minor Error

Table:10 - Referencing Error in Article Titles in JWL

S. No	Article Title as Occurs in Journal	Actual Name of Article Title (Correct part are Highlighted)	Types of errors
1	The Website Design and Usability of US Academic and Public Libraries	The Website Design and Usability of US Academic and Public Libraries: <u>Findings from a Nationwide Study</u>	Subtitle Missing – Major Error

Tables -9 for JALIA and Table- 10 for JWL both contain lists of title errors in JWL and JALIA journals.

Errors in the journal name

Table:11-Error in Journal Names

Referencing Errors in journal name	JALIA	JWL	Total	%
Addition/ Spelling Errors	3	0	3	60%
Wrong/ Incomplete Name	0	1	1	20%
Punctuation Errors	1	0	1	20%
Total	4	1	5	100%

Table 11 shows the inaccuracies in the Journal's name. The most common errors (60 percent) were in the Addition/ Spelling Errors in journals Name. There were equal errors in both journals,wrong/

Incomplete Name(20%) and punctuation problems(20%)respectively. Tables 12 and 13 show the journal name problems in JWL and JALIA journals.

Table: 12- Referencing Error in Journals Name in JWL

S. No	Name of Journal as cited	Actual Name of Journal (Correct part are Highlighted)	Types of errors
1	The Bottom Line	The Bottom Line: <u>Managing Library</u>	Subtitle Missing-Major Error

Table: 13 - Referencing Error in Journals Name in JALIA

S. No	Name of Journal as cited	Actual Name of Journal (Correct part are Highlighted)	Types of errors
1	Journal of the Medical Library Association:	<u>Journal of the Medical Library Association</u>	Abbreviated Title Addition- Minor Error

	JMLA		
2	College and Research Libraries	College & Research Libraries	Word Error -Minor Error
3	Journal of the Medical Library Association: JMLA	Journal of the Medical Library Association	Abbreviated Word Addition- Minor Error

Errors in year and page number

Errors in article references such as year and page numbers take time to find and retrieve the original content. As a result, both types of errors are classified as serious errors. Because of their numerical character, both reference components have been combined in one article. The research discovered that the year of publication was wrong in around 28.57 percent of the references in two

LIS journals. The article page numbers in nearly 71.43 percent of the references were inaccurate (Table 14). Both the year and the page detail problems were deemed serious according to Doms. The veracity of journal articles as a medium of scientific communication is expected to be excellent, both even minor errors are considered unacceptable.

Table-14: Referencing Errors in Year and Page Number

Errors in Year and Page Number in Citing	JWL	JALIA	Total	Percentage
Year	2	0	2	28.57
Page Numbers	2	3	5	71.43
Total	4	3	7	100

Errors in Punctuation Marks, Volume and Issue Numbers

Readers depend on the journal's volume and issue number to locate their cited article rapidly and effortlessly. The journal's volume and issue number, as well as punctuation, are all

components that make up a reference. Punctuation has a significant responsibility to identify citing elements and clarifying the meaning of each component in order to keep the citations consistent..

Table: 15 - Errors in Punctuation Marks, Volume and Issue Numbers

Type of Error	JWL	JALIA	Total	Percentage
Punctuation Error	5	5	10	76.93
Wrong/Missing Volume	1	0	01	07.69
Wrong/Missing Issue	2	0	02	15.38
Total	8	5	13	100

The inconsistencies in punctuation marks, volume, and issue number are listed in Table 15. Major errors include incorrect and missing volume and issue numbers, while minor errors include punctuation errors. JWL and JALIA had the equal number of punctuation problems (JWL - 5 errors and JALIA -5errors), as shown in Table 15. 76.93

of the references in two LIS journals had punctuation problems, and 15.38% had issue number errors. JALIA did not have any volume and Issue number inaccuracies. When compared to JALIA, JWL had more issue number inaccuracies

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