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## Findings from a study of JELIS

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# Findings from a study of *JELIS*, 1984-2004

Anita Coleman  
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# Research Question

- What is the **value** of a **scholarly journal**?

# Characteristics - Quality Journal

- High standards of acceptance (acceptance and rejection rates)
- Subject and geographical representativeness of the editorial board
- Use of a critical refereeing system
- Promptness of publication
- Coverage by major abstracting and indexing services
- High confidence level of scientists using the journal in its contents
- High frequency of citation by other journals (impact)
- Inclusion of abstracts / summaries in English
- Providing author(s) addresses (author reputation score)
- Providing complete bibliographic information

# Journal (evaluation) Measures

Objective measures: Citation Rate, Journal Impact Factor, Immediacy Index, References per Paper, Citing Half-Life, Disciplinary Impact Factor, Adjusted Impact Factor, Influence Weight, Mean Response Time, Uncitedness, Self-citedness, Popularity Factor

Subjective measures: Editorial standards, Journal origin and orientation, Type of research covered, Age, Degree of specialization, Circulation size, Reprint distribution, Acceptance and Rejection rates

# 1. Journal Impact Factors

- Journal Impact factors
  - Conflated as measures of Quality, Influence
  - Limitations (Garfield, Smith, Moed)
- Journal evaluation studies
  - Subjective ratings (Kohl & Davis, 1985; Blake, 2006; Nisonger & Davis, 2005)
  - Citation (objective) measures (*JCR*)
  - Correlation studies

## 2. Changes in journal publishing

The disaggregation of journals provokes questions about the value added to papers by a journal

Two other kinds of measurements become important

Production costs such as cost per unit in terms of pages and articles

Usage, i.e., cost-per unit, assessing readership, potential and actual use, in various situations

# 4. Open Access

- Impact of digital repositories on scholarly journal publishing
- Distinction between scholarly communication and publishing
- Measures
  - Hits, Downloads
  - OA Advantage = EA + (AA) + (QB) + (CA) + UA

**DLIST**



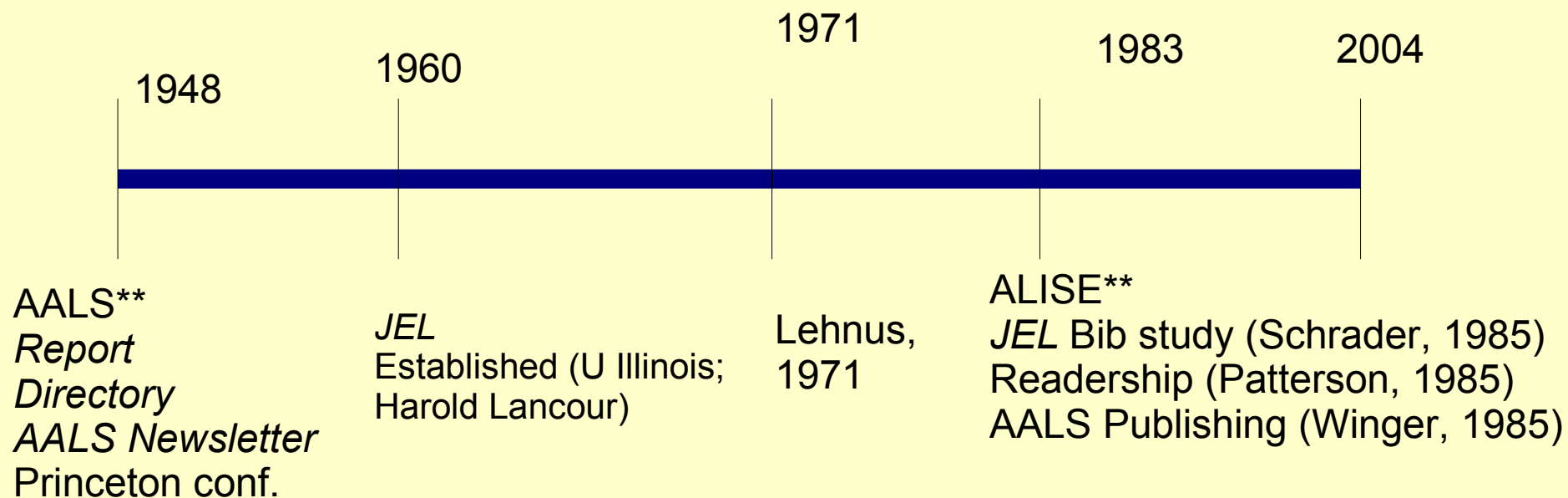
# 3. Globalization

- Globalization in LIS journals (Richardson)
- Requires measures

# Methods Used

- Case study
  - Defining value + selected journal evaluation studies
  - *Journal of Education for Library & Information Science (JELIS) - 1984-2004*
- Sources of Data
  - *ISI citation indexes; Library Literature*
  - *Library and Information Science Abstracts (incomplete, discarded)*
  - *Print copies (verification)*

# Brief history of *JELIS*



**\*\* American Association of Library Schools (AALS) is the former name of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)**

***JELIS* is 45 years old**

# Journal Impact Factor

ISI Subject Category	<i>Number of Journals in the Category</i>	Top Ranking (#1) Journal in Category	Rank of <i>JELIS</i> in the Category	Lowest Ranking Journal in Category
Education and Educational Research	102	<i>American Educational Research Journal</i> Rank: 1 Total cites: 931 Impact Factor: 2.322 Total articles: 24 Immediacy Index: 0.292 Cited Half-Life: 7.7	Rank: 98 Total cites: 2 Impact Factor: 0.032 Total articles: 26 Immediacy Index: N/A Cited Half-Life: N/A	<i>Russian Education &amp; Society</i> Rank: 102 Total cites: 1 Impact Factor: 0.0 Total articles: 58 Immediacy Index: 0.0 Cited Half-Life: N/A

***JELIS* is ranked 98 out of 102 journals in ISI Education category**

# Journal Impact Factor

ISI Subject Category	<i>Number of Journals in the Category</i>	Top Ranking (#1) Journal in Category	Rank of <i>JELIS</i> in the Category	Lowest Ranking Journal in Category
Information Science, Library Science	56	<p><i>Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association</i></p> <p>Rank: 1 Total Cites: 293 Impact Factor: 2.164</p> <p>Total articles: 54 Immediacy Index: 0.444 Cited Half-life: 2.5</p>	<p>Rank: 55 Total cites: 24 Impact Factor: 0.032</p> <p>Total articles: 26 Immediacy Index: N/A Cited Half-Life: N/A</p>	<p><i>Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science Annual Meeting</i></p> <p>Rank: 56 Total cites: 37 Impact Factor: N/A</p> <p>Total articles: 31 Immediacy Index: N/A Cited Half-Life: N/A</p>

***JELIS* rank is low in ISI Impact Factors  
*JELIS* is ranked 55 out of 56 journals in the ISI information science category**

# Peer Ratings

Source (name) of the study	Number of LIS journals in the study	Rank in the Rating of <i>JELIS</i> by ARL Library Directors	Relative rank position calculated in terms of total number of journals in the study	Rank in the Rating of <i>JELIS</i> by Library School Deans	Relative rank position calculated in terms of total number of journals in the study
Kohl and Davis (1985)	31	# 15	0.483	# 5	0.161
Blake (1996)	57	# 18	0.315	# 6	0.105
Nisonger and Davis (2005)	71	# 23	0.323	# 12	0.169
Nisonger and Davis (2005) *	71	# 31	0.436	# 28	0.394

\* Average rating of journal prestige in terms of value for tenure and promotion by Directors and Deans: Not familiar and blank responses are not considered

***JELIS ranked is high by peer ratings***

# *JEL* Bibliometric Study

- *Growth:*
  - 473 articles - 3,655 references
  - 156 had no references.
- *Affiliation distribution:*
  - 100 of the 473 authors were practitioners (21%)  
340 were educators (72%)
  - 16 students both doctoral and master's (3%); and 6 were unidentified (1%).

Source: Schrader, 1985

# *JEL* Subject Coverage

<b>Subject coverage in <i>JEL</i>, 1960-1984 from the Schrader (1985) study</b>
International and comparative library education
Curriculum – reference services
Curriculum – design and development
Curriculum – core courses
Curriculum – cataloging and classification
Curriculum – special librarianship
Curriculum – book selection
Curriculum – aims and objectives
Library education – aims and objectives
Library education – philosophy

**The top number of *JEL* articles are about International and comparative library education**



# JEL Study Conclusion

*Despite “increasingly rigorous scholarship among library science educators and authors” Schrader concluded: “the goal of any field is intellectual consensus, and none of the indices developed in this study point to the existence of such a consensus. There is on the conceptual level, little interest in the philosophical foundations of library science education. There is no well-defined core of either contributing authors, cited authors, or cited works over the 24-year period examined in the study.” (p. 297). In addition, Schrader wondered exactly who – practitioner or educator - was the master of the education for LIS domain.*

# *JELIS*, 1984-2004

- Waypost years – 1984, 1985, 1994, 2004
- 67 articles written by 92 authors with 1225 references
- 105 citations in 44 distinct citing journals
- 23 of the 92 authors were from 'foreign' countries

# *JELIS*, 1984-2004

	1984	1985	1994	2004	Total
Number of authors (number of foreign authors in parentheses)*	15 (1)	20 (1)	22 (8)	35 (13)	92 (23)
Number of articles**	10	16	18	23	67
References per paper	9	13.5	26.2	19.4	18.2
Number of citations received***	13	64	28	0	105
Number of references made***	90	216	472	447	1225
Number of citing journals***	6	22	16	0	44
Number of cited journals*	27	78	34	60	199

*JELIS* publishes approximately **16**  
research articles per year

# *JELIS*, subject coverage (all)

Term	1984-1989	1990-1999	2000-2004
Document Type breakdown*	177 articles; 53 book reviews	349 articles; 62 book reviews; 2 Others	134 articles; 15 book reviews 29 Others
Library schools**	28%	24%	32%
Education for librarianship***	-	16%	16%
ALISE	8%	10%	-
Associations	10%	-	-
Speech	4%	28%	-
Conferences	-	6%	
Surveys	10%	-	14%
Use studies	-	-	6%
End user searching	-	-	4%
Cataloging	4%	-	-
Reference services	12 %	-	-
Information Science	-	-	6%
Cognition	-	6%	6%
Research in librarianship	-	8%	8%

**Cognition** is emerging as a covered subject

# *JELIS*, subject coverage, articles

Subject headings for <i>JELIS</i> (from <i>Library Literature</i> )	Number
Library schools - Curriculum	64
Library schools -- Faculty	36
Distance education	31
Surveys – Library schools	29
Information science -- Teaching	26
Education for librarianship -- Evaluation	20
Research in librarianship	16
Continuing education	15
Education for librarianship	14
Library schools -- Evaluation	13
Library schools -- Students	13
Cognition	12
Archivists -- Education	12
Cataloging -- Teaching	11
Computer-assisted instruction	11
Research in librarianship -- Evaluation	11

**Curriculum** continues to dominate (as in 1984)  
**Distance education** is the third most popular subject  
for articles (columns, book reviews, not included)

# Professional status of *JELIS* authors

Year	LIS faculty	Librarian-Practitioners	Others
1984	9	2	4
1994	14	3	8
2004	21	5	8
All 3 years	44 (61%)	11 (15%)	17 (24%)

Number of practitioners in the milestone years show they are decreasing as authors

# Measures of value

- **Journal affinity – measure of globalization**
- **Journal associativity – measure of collaboration**
- **Journal consumption – popularity x citation**

# *JELIS* Value – Bib measures

- Productivity
  - Holding pattern
- Affinity
  - Increasing
- Associativity
  - Increasing (slower)
- Consumption
  - Fluctuating



# Discussion

In 1984 the popularity factor was 0.14 and by 1994, it was 0.05. One explanation for this could be the loss of librarian-practitioners as author-readers of *JELIS*. By becoming more scholarly, as exhibited by the increase in the references per paper during this period, and by focusing on education for the information professions more broadly conceptualized than just librarianship, as shown by the changed diversity in subject coverage, *JELIS* may have alienated and lost a part of a critical mass of reading audience in the United States.

# Discussion

The top journals citing *JELIS* are

- *JELIS*
- *Library and Information Science Research*
- *Library Trends*
- *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*
- *Library Quarterly*
- *College & Research Libraries*
- *Education for Information*
- *Library Resources & Technical Services*
- *Journal of Academic Librarianship*
- *Libri*
- *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*

# Discussion

Journals in **ISI subject categories** citing *JELIS*:  
Education and Education Research,  
Computer Science, Information Systems,  
Computer Science, Cybernetics, Psychology  
(Multi-disciplinary), History and Philosophy  
of Science

Titles: *Abdominal Imaging, Journal of  
Experimental Imaging, Psychological Bulletin,  
International Journal of Engineering  
Education, Teaching and Learning in  
Medicine, Journal of Educational Computing  
Research*

# Recommendations

- *JELIS* editorial board needs to reflect the value of affinity by having members from different countries
- Outreach and marketing to constituencies beyond the scholarly society-publisher ALISE will help increase associativity.

# Results

- A correlation study along with a readership survey of *JELIS* and the other top five or top ten LIS journals in the citing journal network to reveal the finer gradations of popularity versus citation (dimensions of value).
- A comparative study of *JELIS* with educational and psychology journals may expand understanding of the significance of cross-subject or cross-disciplinary information flows based on which other bibliometric value measures can be developed.

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The preprint is available in dLIST.

URL: <http://dlist.sir.arizona.edu/1030/>

Thank you!