

Mapping Research Productivity in the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR): A Bibliometric Study

R. A. P. S. Senevirathna¹

ABSTRACT

This study examines the bibliometric characteristics of articles published in the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR), published by the University of Ruhuna, during the five-year period from 2020 to 2024. A total of 64 research articles published across 20 issues and contributed by 123 authors were analysed. The objectives of the study were to examine publication distribution, authorship patterns, prolific authors, leading contributing institutions, productive departments, article length, reference patterns, and article download trends. A bibliometric analytical method was employed for data collection and analysis. The findings revealed that the highest number of articles was published in 2022. Many articles (53.13%) were single-authored, indicating the prominence of individual research contributions, while collaborative authorship also represented a considerable proportion of publications. The most prolific author contributed four articles during the study period. The analysis of article characteristics showed that most publications were 16–20 pages long (53.13%) and cited 21–30 references (32.81%), showing the predominant article-length and reference-use patterns during the study period.

¹ Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.
Email: saku@lib.ruh.ac.lk <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3008-6189>



Received: 07 March 2026,
Accepted revised version: 12 July 2026.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons
Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License.

The analysis of article characteristics showed that most publications were 16–20 pages long (53.13%) and cited 21–30 references (32.81%), showing the predominant article-length and reference-use patterns during the study period. Furthermore, article download analysis indicated a moderate level of reader engagement, with 54.68% of articles receiving 51–100 downloads. The findings provide useful insights for researchers, editors, and academic stakeholders involved in humanities and social sciences research.

Keywords: *Bibliometric analysis; research productivity; University of Ruhuna; Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review; JSSHR*

Introduction

Introduction to Bibliometrics

Research into the assessment of academic productivity and quality has resulted in the emergence of new academic disciplines, including bibliometrics, scientometrics, and informetrics. Bibliometrics is derived from two Greek words, “biblio” and “metrikos”, meaning book and measurement.

Bibliometrics is the statistical evaluation of published documents (Sengupta, 1990). It can be described as the statistical analysis of bibliographic information in publications. Bibliometric analyses are based on the assumption that most scientific discoveries and research results are eventually published in scientific journals where they can be read and cited by other researchers (Rehn et al., 2014).

Bibliometrics and librametry were commonly defined by Ravichandra Rao as “Information processes and information handling in libraries and information centres by quantitatively analyzing the characteristics and behavior of documents, library staff and library users” (Ravichandra Rao, 1981).

In 1948, S. R. Ranganathan coined the term “librametry”, which

historically appeared first and was intended to streamline the services of librarianship. Bibliometrics is analogous to Ranganathan's librametrics, the Russian concept of scientometrics, informetrics, and subdisciplines such as econometrics, psychometrics, sociometrics, biometrics, technometrics, chemometrics, and climetrics, where mathematics and statistics are applied to study and solve problems in the respective fields (Ranganathan, 1995).

According to Wilson (2012), bibliometrics can also be referred to as informetrics, webometrics, scientometrics, and cybermetrics. These terms essentially indicate the kinds of information to which the analysis is applied and may carry similar connotations when analysing the metrics of scholarly communication, with minor differences in context or purpose.

Pritchard (1969) preferred the term 'bibliometrics' as a replacement for 'statistical bibliography'; it refers to the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other forms of communication, which means bibliometrics is a sort of measuring technique by which interconnected aspects of written communication can be quantified.

Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review

The Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR) is a quarterly publication of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Ruhuna. It is a double-blind, peer-reviewed journal. The journal started publishing in 2016, with four issues per volume. Its main aim is to ensure the publication of high-quality scientific research and provide open access to readers worldwide. The journal provides a platform for scholars, academics, researchers, and professionals to publish research covering areas of the humanities and social sciences. It also publishes articles based on theoretical, empirical, or case-based research, highlighting recent developments in the respective study areas. Furthermore, the journal is indexed by Google Scholar and hosted on the Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL) platform. It provides immediate open access to

its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, 2026).

Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it provides a comprehensive overview of the publication characteristics and scholarly development of the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR). The findings offer valuable insights into publication trends, authorship patterns, institutional contributions, referencing behaviour, and readership engagement of the journal. The results will assist journal editors and academic stakeholders in understanding the strengths and areas for further improvement of JSSHR. Furthermore, the study provides useful information for researchers in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences by identifying research trends and contributing to a better understanding of scholarly communication patterns. The findings may also support future strategies to enhance the visibility, quality, and academic impact of the journal.

Research Problem

The Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR) publishes research across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences; however, its publication characteristics have not been systematically examined using bibliometric methods. In particular, publication patterns, authorship characteristics, institutional contributions, referencing behaviour, and readership engagement remain largely unexplored. This lack of bibliometric evidence limits a comprehensive understanding of the journal's scholarly contribution, research trends, visibility, and areas for future development. Therefore, this study addresses this research gap by conducting a bibliometric analysis of articles published in JSSHR during the period 2020–2024.

Objectives

The main objective of this study was to conduct a bibliometric analysis of research articles published in JSSHR and evaluate publication trends and research engagement. The specific objectives of the study were:

- To examine the publication output of JSSHR over the five-year period from 2020 to 2024.
- To examine the authorship pattern of articles.
- To identify the most prolific author.
- To evaluate authors' institutional contributions.
- To identify the most productive institutions and departments.
- To examine article length, reference patterns, and article download trends.

Literature Review

Bibliometric studies have been conducted across a wide range of subject areas using diverse methodologies. While many such studies have been undertaken internationally, only a limited number have been reported in Sri Lanka.

Trivedi and Manavadriya (2021) examined the Indian Journal of Finance for the period from 2015 to 2019. The analysis covered various aspects, including year-wise distribution of articles, authorship patterns, degree of collaboration, issue-wise distribution of articles, article lengths, and contributor rankings. The study identified 141 articles published across 11 volumes of the journal. It revealed that 234 contributors from 134 institutions participated in these publications, and the average number of citations per article was 31.68.

Ravikumar and Ramanan (2020) conducted a bibliometric study on the Journal of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka covering the period from 2005 to 2019. The study analysed 127 articles authored by 182 library professionals using mixed bibliometric methods. Various indicators, such as authorship pattern, degree of collaboration, citation patterns, subject coverage,

and institutional contributions, were examined. The findings revealed that single authorship constituted 62.5% of the total publications, although collaborative research showed a gradual increase over time. The study also applied Lotka's Law and Bradford's Law to assess author productivity and identify core journals. The University of Peradeniya ranked as the leading contributing institution.

Verma and Shukla (2018) analyzed the research mapping and publication trends of the *Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science* over five years (2012–2016). The study focused on various bibliometric parameters, including authorship patterns, reference distribution, and geographical distribution of contributions. A total of 251 articles published during this period were examined. The findings revealed that the highest number of articles (62) was published in 2015. The study further reported that the majority of publications resulted from collaborative research.

Navaneethakrishnan and Kupesan (2014) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the *Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities* published by the University of Peradeniya. The study examined 319 articles authored by 147 contributors during the period from 1975 to 2009. The findings indicated that publication output varied across the study period, with English identified as the dominant language of publication. The results also showed a positive growth trend in research output and revealed that single-authored contributions were predominant. The study tested Lotka's Law to measure author productivity and found variations between observed and expected productivity patterns. Additionally, Zipf's Law was applied to title words, and the University of Peradeniya emerged as the leading affiliated institution.

Das (2021) conducted a bibliometric analysis of *World Digital Libraries* that is an International Journal. The analysis covered 149 contributions published in the journal over twelve years, from 2008 to 2020. The study revealed that joint authors contributed 85 (57.04%) articles, while the remaining 64 (42.95%) articles were contributed by single authors. Among 150 institutions, the

University of Delhi contributed the highest number of articles, with 20 publications, followed by the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur with nine publications.

Sujatha and Padmini (2015) conducted a bibliometric study of the IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation journal covering the period from 2010 to 2014. The study found that a total of 3,442 papers were published during this period. The degree of collaboration ranged between 0.92 and 0.96, indicating a high level of collaborative research. The majority of contributions originated from the USA, while India ranked 21st with 52 articles.

Gunasekera (2008) conducted a bibliometric study on library and information science research literature in Sri Lanka. The study examined 141 articles published from 1997 to 2007 to identify characteristics of library and information science literature in Sri Lanka. Single authorship was present in 94% of the articles. Author productivity did not fit Lotka's Law, and the average number of citations per article was nine.

Pattar and Patel (2021) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the journal Communications in Information Literacy (CIL) covering the period from 2007 to 2018. The analysis revealed a steady growth in the number of papers published over the years. The study found that single-authored papers constituted the major share of the total publications. A total of 223 papers published in 12 volumes (Vol. 1–12) were examined. It was also observed that single-author contributions accounted for 55.61% (124 papers), which was higher compared to two-authored papers.

Methodology

A descriptive bibliometric method was employed for this study, and all research articles published in the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR) during the period 2020–2024 were included in the analysis. A total of 64 articles published across 20 issues were examined. Data required for the study

were collected from the Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL) platform. The variables considered for analysis included publication year, number of authors, authors’ institutional affiliations, departmental affiliations, article length, number of references, and article download statistics. The collected data were analysed using Microsoft Excel and presented using descriptive statistical techniques.

Results and Discussion

Year-wise Distribution of Research Publication

Table 1 presents the year-wise distribution of research publications between 2020 and 2024. During the five-year study period, a total of 64 articles were published across 20 issues. Each year comprised four issues, demonstrating the journal’s regular publication schedule.

Table 1
Year-wise distribution of research publications

Year	Volume Number	Issue Number	No. of Articles
2024	9	4	3
2024	9	3	3
2024	9	2	3
2024	9	1	3
2023	8	4	3
2023	8	3	3
2023	8	2	3
2023	8	1	3
2022	7	4	4
2022	7	3	4
2022	7	2	4
2022	7	1	4
2021	6	4	3
2021	6	3	3
2021	6	2	3
2021	6	1	3
2020	5	4	3
2020	5	3	3
2020	5	2	3
2020	5	1	3
Total			64

The findings indicate that 2022 recorded the highest number of publications, with 16 articles published across four issues (Volume 7), averaging four articles per issue. In contrast, 2020, 2021, 2023, and 2024 published 12 articles, with three articles appearing in each issue. The increase in publication output during 2022 suggests a temporary rise in research contributions, whereas the remaining years maintained a consistent publication pattern.

Overall, the year-wise distribution demonstrates that the journal sustained a regular publication frequency throughout the study period, reflecting its commitment to continuous scholarly communication while accommodating a modest increase in publication output during 2022.

Authorship Pattern

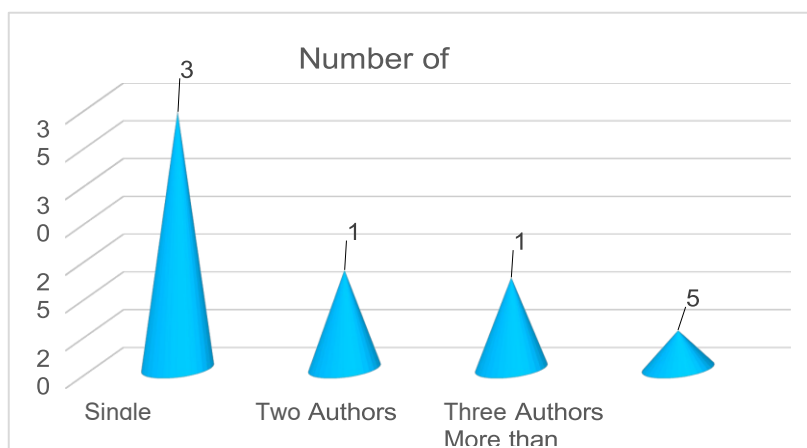
Table 2 and Figure 1 present the authorship pattern of articles published in the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR) during the period 2020–2024.

Table 2
Authorship pattern

Year	Single Author	Two Authors	Three Authors	More than Three Authors	Total Articles
2024	7	2	2	1	12
2023	7	2	3	0	12
2022	7	5	3	1	16
2021	6	2	2	2	12
2020	7	2	2	1	12
Total	34	13	12	5	64

Figure 1

Authorship Pattern



A total of 64 articles were published, of which 34 (53.13%) were single-authored, 13 (20.31%) were authored by two authors, 12 (18.75%) by three authors, and 5 (7.81%) by more than three authors. The findings indicate that single-authored publications constituted the largest proportion of articles published in JSSHR, suggesting that individual research remained the predominant pattern of scholarly contribution during the study period. However, multi-authored publications also represented a substantial proportion of the total output, indicating the growing importance of collaborative research. The highest number of collaborative publications was recorded in 2022, while single-authored articles remained relatively consistent throughout the study period.

Degree of Collaboration

The Degree of Collaboration (DC) was calculated using Subramanyam's (1983) formula:

$$DC = \frac{N_m}{N_m + N_s}$$

Where N_m represents the number of multi-authored papers and N_s represents the number of single-authored papers.

Based on the data:

- Single-authored papers (N_s) = 34
- Multi-authored papers (N_m) = 30

$$DC = \frac{N_m}{N_m + N_s}$$

$$DC = \frac{30}{30+34}$$

$$DC = \frac{30}{64}$$

$$DC = 0.46875$$

Rounded to two decimal places, the Degree of Collaboration was 0.47.

$$DC = 0.47$$

The Degree of Collaboration (DC) was calculated using Subramanyam's (1983) formula. Of the 64 articles published during the study period, 34 were single-authored and 30 were multi-authored, resulting in a DC value of 0.47. This indicates that single-authored publications were slightly more prevalent than collaborative publications in JSSHR. Although individual authorship remained dominant, the proportion of collaborative publications suggests a moderate level of research collaboration.

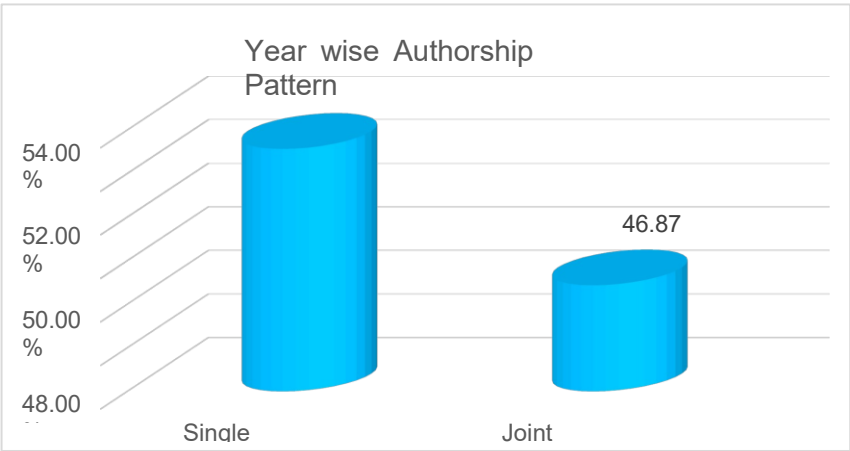
Year-wise Authorship Pattern

Table 3 and Figure 2 present the year-wise authorship pattern of articles published in the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR) during the period 2020–2024.

Table 3
Year-wise Authorship Pattern

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total	Percent (%)
Authorship							
Single Authors	7	6	7	7	7	34	53.13%
Joint Authors	5	6	9	5	5	30	46.87%
	12	12	16	12	12	64	100%
Total							

Figure 2
Year-wise Authorship Pattern



Among the 64 articles published during the study period, 34 (53.13%) were single-authored, while 30 (46.87%) were jointly authored. Single-authored articles remained relatively consistent throughout the study period, whereas joint authorship reached its highest level in 2022 with nine articles. The Degree of Collaboration (DC), calculated using Subramanyam’s (1983) formula, was 0.47, indicating that single-authored publications were slightly more prevalent than collaborative publications. This suggests that although collaborative research has gained importance, individual research continued to be the

dominant authorship pattern in JSSHR. Similar findings were reported by Pattar and Patel (2021) and Navaneethakrishnan and Kupesan (2014), who observed that single-authored articles constituted the majority of publications in the journals they examined. However, the proportion of collaborative publications in JSSHR indicates an increasing tendency towards research collaboration, which could be further strengthened through interdisciplinary and inter-institutional partnerships.

Prolific Authors of JSSHR

The most productive authors during the study period are listed in Table 4. Authors who contributed only once are not displayed because of the length of the table.

Table 4
Prolific authors with number of papers

Author's Name	Number of Articles
Sumanarathne, B.M.	4
Udayanga, Samitha	3
Gamage, G.C.L.	2
Samaraweera, S.G.S.	2

Among the productive authors during this period, B. M. Sumanarathne of the Department of Economics, University of Ruhuna, ranked first with four publications. Samitha Udayanga of the Department of Sociology, University of Ruhuna, ranked second with three publications.

Leading Research Institutions

The institutional contribution analysis presented in Table 5 highlights the leading institutions represented in the research output during the study period. A total of 123 institutional contributions were identified across the selected publications, indicating participation from a wide range of academic and research organizations.

Table 5

Most Productive Institutions by Number of Contributions

Institute	Frequency	Percent (%)
University of Ruhuna	42	34.15%
University of Sri Jayewardenepura	16	13.00%
University of Kelaniya	13	10.57%
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	12	9.76%
University of Peradeniya	7	5.70%
Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT)	7	5.70%
One Health Poultry Hub (OHPH)	4	3.26%
University of Chittagong	3	2.44%
Shahjalal University of Science & Technology	3	2.44%
University of Colombo	2	1.63%
University of Delta	2	1.63%
Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka	1	0.81%
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka	1	0.81%
University of Vavuniya	1	0.81%
Tea Research Institute	1	0.81%
National Aquatic Resource Research and Development Agency	1	0.81%
University of Colombo Institute of Agrotechnology and Rural Sciences (UCIARS)	1	0.81%
Begum Rokeya University	1	0.81%
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University	1	0.81%
Bangladesh Open University	1	0.81%
REACH Initiative Bangladesh	1	0.81%
University of Dhaka	1	0.81%
Ewha Woman's University	1	0.81%
Total	123	100%

The findings reveal that institutional contributions were concentrated among a few leading institutions, while several institutions contributed only a limited number of affiliations. The University of Ruhuna emerged as the leading institution, accounting for 42 institutional contributions (34.15%) of the total. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura ranked second with 16 contributions (13.00%), followed by the University of Kelaniya with 13 contributions (10.57%) and Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka with 12 contributions

(9.76%). Together, these four institutions accounted for a substantial proportion of the total institutional contributions.

Other institutions, including the University of Peradeniya and the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), recorded seven contributions each (5.70%). The participation of institutions such as the One Health Poultry Hub (OHPH), University of Chittagong, and Shahjalal University of Science & Technology indicates the presence of regional and international research collaboration. Contributions from institutions in Bangladesh, including the University of Chittagong, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Open University, and other research organisations, further demonstrate cross-country collaboration among researchers.

The presence of several institutions with single contributions (0.81%) reflects the diversity of institutional participation in the research area. Although their individual contributions are limited, their involvement suggests that research activities are expanding beyond the major contributing institutions.

The dominance of universities among the contributing institutions may reflect the research-oriented environment of higher education institutions, availability of academic expertise, postgraduate research activities, and institutional encouragement for scholarly publication. The findings also indicate that collaborative research networks have developed among universities and research organisations, contributing to knowledge production within the field.

Most Prolific Departments

Table 6 presents the ranked list of the most productive departments represented in the selected publications. The analysis identified a total of 73 departmental contributions, demonstrating the involvement of diverse academic disciplines in research activities. The findings reveal that contributions were distributed among departments representing social sciences, humanities, management studies, information management, and other related disciplines.

Table 6

Most Productive Departments by Number of Contributions

Name of the Department	Frequency
Department of Economics, University of Ruhuna	7
Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna	7
Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ruhuna	7
Department of Estate Management and Valuation, University of Sri Jayawardenepura	7
Department of Sociology, University of Ruhuna	5
Department of English Language Teaching Unit, University of Ruhuna	4
Department of Management and Entrepreneurship	4
Department of Business Management, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology	4
One Health Poultry Hub (OHPH)	4
Department of Economics, University of Kelaniya	3
Department of Information Management, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology	3
Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna	2
Department of Human Resource Management, University of Ruhuna	2
Department of Industrial Management, University of Kelaniya	2
Department of International Studies, University of Kelaniya	2
Department of Statistics, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	2
Department of Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	2
Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya	2
Department of Political Science, University of Chittagong	2
Department of Languages, University of Delta	2
Total	73

The results indicate that four departments shared the number of highest

contributions, with seven each. These were the Department of Economics, Department of Geography, and Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Ruhuna, and the Department of Estate Management and Valuation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. These contributions highlight the strong representation of these departments in the journal during the study period.

Among the University of Ruhuna departments, the Department of Sociology recorded five contributions, followed by the English Language Teaching Unit and the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, with four contributions each. The notable representation of several departments of the University of Ruhuna indicates strong institutional participation and multidisciplinary engagement among academic units.

The participation of departments such as the Department of Business Management and the Department of Information Management of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, along with the One Health Poultry Hub (OHPH), demonstrates the involvement of specialised research units beyond conventional university departments. Furthermore, contributions from departments of the University of Kelaniya, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, University of Peradeniya, and international institutions such as the University of Chittagong and University of Delta indicate the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of research represented in the journal.

The presence of departments representing diverse subject areas suggests that the journal has attracted scholarly contributions across multiple disciplines. The involvement of departments from economics, geography, history, management, languages, information management, and social sciences reflects the broad disciplinary coverage of the journal.

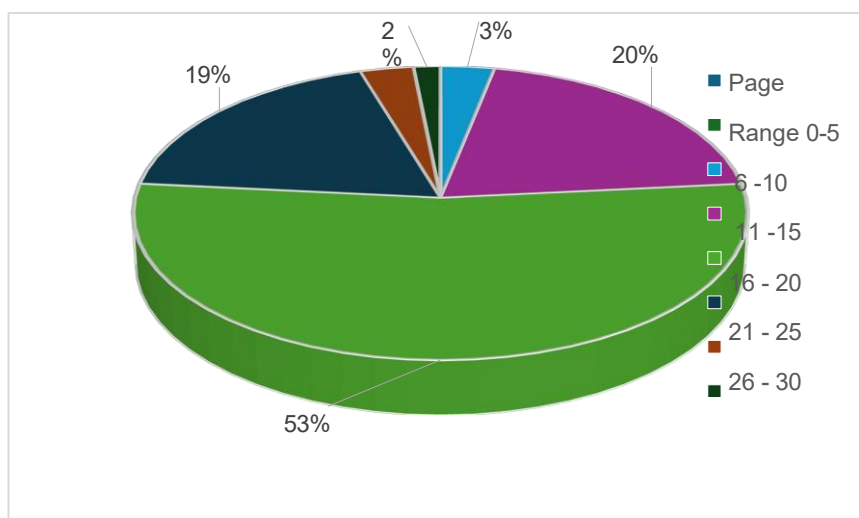
Overall, the departmental contribution pattern indicates that contributions were mainly concentrated among social science and humanities related departments, while contributions from other disciplines demonstrate broader institutional and disciplinary participation.

Article Length Analysis

The distribution of publications according to their length (number of pages) is presented in Figure 3. The analysis of article length provides an overview of the extent of research reporting within the selected publications.

Figure 3

Page Length Distribution of Published Articles



The findings indicate considerable variation in article length. The largest proportion of publications (53.13%) fell within the 16–20 page range, indicating that most articles during the study period were of moderate length. The second-highest proportion of publications (20.32%) belonged to the 11–15 page category, followed by 21–25 page articles (18.75%).

Smaller proportions of publications were found in the 6–10 page category (3.12%) and 26–30 page category (3.12%).

Only 1.56% of publications exceeded 30 pages, showing that very lengthy articles were uncommon during the study period.

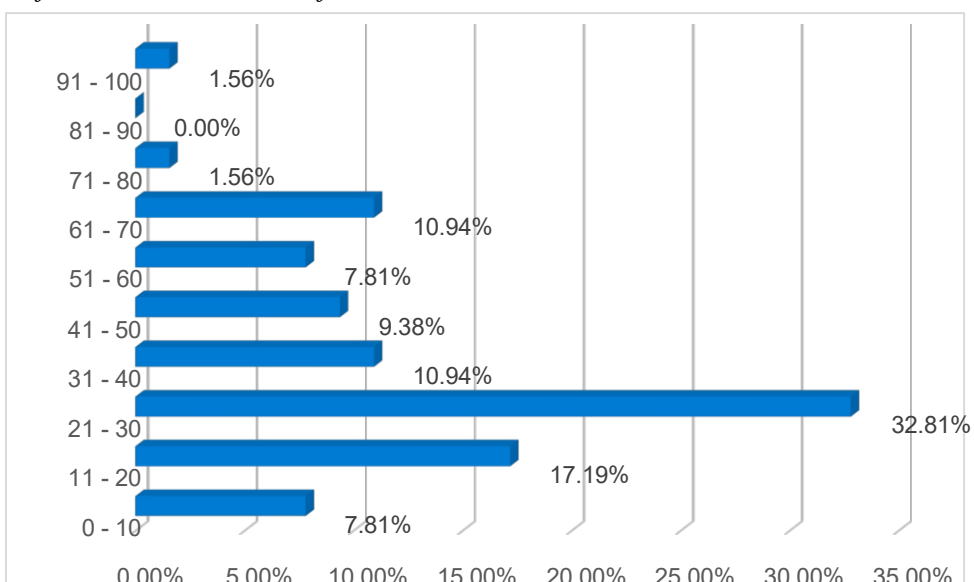
Overall, the article-length distribution shows a strong concentration between 11 and 25 pages.

Reference Analysis

Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of publications according to the number of references cited in each article. Reference analysis is an important bibliometric indicator because it reflects the extent to which authors rely on existing scholarly literature to support their research.

Figure 4

Reference Distribution of Published Articles



The findings reveal that the largest proportion of publications (32.81%) cited 21–30 references, indicating that this was the most common reference range among the articles analysed.

The second-largest category comprised articles with 11–20 references (17.19%), followed by publications containing 31–40 references (10.94%) and 61–70 references (10.94%).

Publications with 41–50 references accounted for 9.38%, while articles with 0–10 references and 51–60 references each represented 7.81% of the total publications.

Only a small proportion of publications cited 71–80 references (1.56%) or 91–100 references (1.56%), while no publications contained 81–90 references.

Overall, the reference distribution demonstrates that many publications cited between 11 and 30 references.

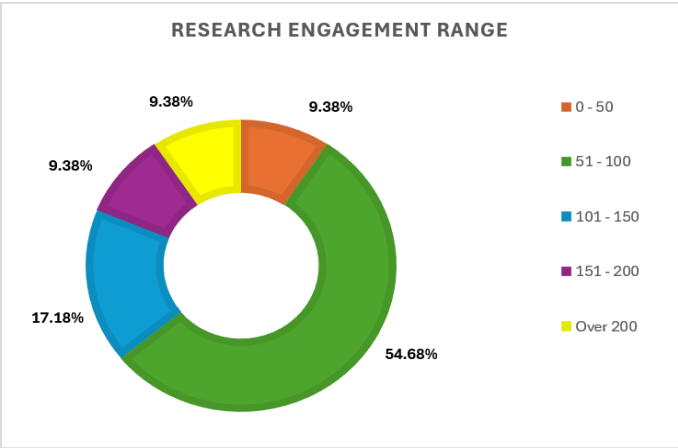
Article Download Trends and Research Engagement

Table 7 and Figure 5 present the distribution of published articles according to download frequency, providing an indication of reader engagement with the journal’s publications. The analysis included all 64 articles published during the study period.

Table 7
Research Engagement Based on Article Downloads

Download Range	Frequency	Percent (%)
0 - 50	6	9.38%
51 - 100	35	54.68%
101 - 150	11	17.18%
151 - 200	6	9.38%
Over 200	6	9.38%
Total	64	100%

Figure 5
Research Engagement Based on Article Downloads



The findings reveal that many articles (35; 54.68%) were downloaded 51–100 times, indicating a moderate level of reader engagement for more than half of the published articles. Articles with 101–150 downloads accounted for 11 (17.18%), while 6 (9.38%) articles each were downloaded 0–50 times, 151–200 times, and over 200 times.

The predominance of articles within the 51–100 download range indicates a moderate level of readership among the articles analysed. A substantial proportion of the published articles attracted repeated access, while only a small proportion (9.38%) received fewer than 50 downloads.

Six articles received more than 200 downloads, indicating comparatively high interest in those publications. Differences in download counts may reflect factors such as publication date, topic, open-access availability, dissemination, and author visibility.

Overall, the download distribution indicates a generally positive pattern of reader engagement, with approximately 90% of the articles receiving more than 50 downloads. However, the download figures should be interpreted as descriptive indicators of access rather than direct measures of scholarly impact.

Conclusion

This bibliometric study examined the publication characteristics of the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review during the period 2020–2024, focusing on publication trends, authorship characteristics, institutional and departmental contributions, article characteristics, and reader engagement. The findings revealed that the journal maintained a regular publication schedule throughout the five years, publishing a total of 64 research articles across 20 issues. Although publication output remained consistent in most years, the highest number of articles was published in 2022, indicating a temporary increase in publication output.

The analysis of authorship patterns revealed that single-authored

publications were slightly more common than collaborative publications. Of the 64 research articles, 34 (53.13%) were single-authored, while 30 (46.87%) involved joint authorship. The Degree of Collaboration was 0.47. The most prolific author was B. M. Sumanarathne, who contributed four articles during the study period and was affiliated with the Department of Economics, University of Ruhuna.

The analysis of institutional contributions identified the University of Ruhuna (34.15%) as the leading institution, while the departmental analysis highlighted several departments of the University of Ruhuna and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura as the most frequently represented academic units. The Department of Economics, Department of Geography, and Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Ruhuna, and the Department of Estate Management and Valuation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, recorded the highest departmental contributions.

The analysis of article characteristics revealed that the largest proportion of publications was 16–20 pages long (53.13%), while the largest reference category was 21–30 references (32.81%). Furthermore, the analysis of article downloads showed that 54.68% of articles received 51–100 downloads, indicating moderate reader engagement during the period captured by the data. Overall, the study provides useful insights into publication trends, research collaboration, institutional and departmental representation, article characteristics, and reader engagement in JSSHR. The findings may assist editors, researchers, and policymakers in strengthening the visibility and scholarly development of future publications.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed:

The editorial board should encourage collaborative and interdisciplinary

research by promoting joint submissions from researchers representing different universities and research institutions in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The editorial board should enhance the national and international visibility of the journal through wider indexing, digital dissemination, academic platforms, and a systematic dissemination strategy using university library networks, professional mailing lists, webinars, social media platforms, and direct links to articles hosted on the Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL) platform.

Authors should be encouraged to publish high-quality research and to use recent and relevant scholarly literature to strengthen the quality of references.

The journal may consider attracting contributions from a broader range of universities and research institutions to enhance institutional diversity.

JSSHR should organize author development workshops on research writing, bibliometric methods, APA referencing, research ethics, and journal submission procedures to further enhance the quality and impact of future publications.

Authors should be encouraged to select clear, specific, and searchable keywords that accurately reflect the content of their manuscripts, thereby improving the discoverability and accessibility of articles through academic databases and indexing systems.

Future bibliometric studies may include citation analysis, co-authorship networks, and altmetric indicators to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of the journal's scholarly impact.

References

- Das, I. (2021). A bibliometric study on world digital libraries: An international journal (2008–2020). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 6118. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna. (2026). *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review*.

- Gunasekera, C. (2008). Library and information science research literature in Sri Lanka: A bibliometric study. *Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka*, 12, 17–48.
- Navaneethakrishnan, S., & Kupesan, R. (2014). Bibliometric analysis of Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities. *Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka*, 18(1), 51–71.
- Pattar, V., & Patel, V. (2021). Bibliometric analysis of Communications in Information Literacy (CIL) journal during 2007–2018. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 5662.
- Pritchard, A. (1969). Statistical bibliography or bibliometrics? *Journal of Documentation*, 25(4), 348–349.
- Ranganathan, S. R. (1995). Librametry and its scope. *The International Journal of Scientometrics and Informatics*, 1(1), 15–21.
- Ravichandra Rao, I. K. (1981). Bibliometrics: Its theory and practice. In: G Battacharyya, ed. *DRTC Refresher seminar -13* (1981), 14-17 October 1981, Bangalore: Documentation research and training center.
- Ravikumar, M. N., & Ramanan, T. (2020). Application of mixed metrics of bibliometric analysis on the Journal of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka (2005 to 2019): with special reference to VOS viewer visualization. *Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka*, 23(2), 157–184.
- Rehn, C., Kronman, U., Gornitzki, C., Larsson, A., & Wadskog, D. (2014). *Bibliometric handbook for Karolinska Institute*. Huddinge: Karolinska Institute.
- Sengupta, I. N. (1990). Bibliometrics and its application. *Library and Information science* (Atlantic Publishers; New Delhi), 254-263.
- Sujatha, D., & Padmini, K. (2015). IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation: A Bibliometric Study. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, 35(6), 443–449.

- Trivedi, R., & Manavadriya, M. (2021). Indian Journal of Finance: A Bibliometric Analysis. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 5717.
- Verma, M. K., & Shukla, R. (2018). Mapping the Research Publications Trends in Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science (JALIS) during 2012 –2016: A Bibliometric Analysis. *International Journal of Library Information Network and Knowledge*, 3(2)
- Wilson, V. (2012). Research methods: bibliometrics. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 7(3), 121–123.