

Publishing a New International Journal: From the EIC's Perspective of a Korean Journal

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1 INTRODUCTION

Scholarly journal is a kind of most typical traditional channel to communicate the research outputs and results among academic and scholarly community. Most of scholars have not only tried to publish their articles in the well-known good journals, but also have read so many articles published both in domestic and international journals. Because of the above reason and others, the numbers of scholarly journals have been increased continuously responding to the requests from scholars as well as the related markets which have now become a kind of good business to make big money. For example, “Elsevier’s profits swell to more than £900 million,” and “profit margin in 2017 was 36.8 per cent” (Matthews 2018). In another side, there have been so many kinds of “pay and publish” “predatory” fake journals making bad use of the researchers’ needs to be published easily, and then evaluated well and be promoted (Oh 2018).

From another perspective of scholars, they must be want to submit and to be published their articles in well-known famous ones, but they also want to it more conveniently. In this regard, they will try to find good journals familiar to them for their manuscript to be successfully published without any difficulties. However, most of influential journals have been published in Europe and North America, whether the commercial publishers publish or not. This means that scholars in other areas might have experienced more troubles than those in Europe and in North America. It is the same in the area of library and information science. And in this area in Korea, there had been no international journal listed in the worldwide well-known indexes such as Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus till recently.

From those regards, the author had suggested to KISTI (Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information) to transform a domestic Korean scholarly journal by the Institute into international English journal. JISTaP (Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice) has been started to be published from 2013 with this background, and it has successfully been listed officially in Scopus in 2018. The author has worked as co-editor in chief from the start of this journal, just after suggesting the long term strategic plan in the feasibility study. This

presentation is a kind of brief summary of the backgrounds, history and general characteristics of this process from the EIC's perspective.

2 BACKGROUND

Considering the area of “Information Science & Library Science” listed in Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus in 2015 and 2016, only 13 journals have been published in Asia (5), Africa (1), Oceania (2), and South America (5) as suggested in Table 1. It is less than 10 percent of the total journals listed in both indexes. Of course, there was no Korean LIS journal included, even though there were more than five domestic scholarly journals only published in Korean languages with English titles and abstracts at those times.

Table 1 LIS Journals published outside the Europe / North America

Journal Title	Publisher	Nation	Freq.	Language	OA	DB
Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science	University	Malaysia	3/yr	English	Y	WoS, Scopus
Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association	Association	Australia	4/yr	English	Y	WoS, Scopus
Library and Information Science	Society	Japan	2/yr	Multi-Language	N	WoS, Scopus
Transinformacao	University	Brazil	3/yr	Portuguese	Y	WoS, Scopus
African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science	Publishing Company	Nigeria	2/yr	English	Y	WoS, Scopus
Investigacion Bibliotecologica	University	Mexico	4/yr	Spanish/Portuguese	Y	WoS, Scopus
Informacao & Sociedade-Estudos	University	Brazil	3/yr	Spanish/Portuguese	Y	WoS, Scopus
Ciencia da Informacao	Institute	Brazil	3/yr	Portuguese	Y	WoS, Scopus
Bilgi Dunyasi	Association	Turkey	2/yr	Turkish/English	Y	Scopus
DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology	government office	India	6.yr	English	Y	Scopus
Informacion, Culturay Sociedad	University	Argentina	2/yr	Spanish	Y	Scopus
LIBRES	University	Singapore	2/yr	English	Y	Scopus
Pakistan Journal of Library and Information Science	University	Pakistan	1/yr	English	Y	Scopus

Source: Oh, et al. 2018.

Journal of Information Management (JIM) was one of those journals published by KISTI since 1963 which was registered and listed in Korea Citation Index (KCI). As a government-funded

research institute to support the development of science and technology in Korea through information and related services to related areas including R&D and industries, it has also developed and provided a journal publishing supporting system to the Korean academic communities. In order to check the feasibility of transforming JIM into an international journal, KISTI requested to the author to do the project. This team suggested the reasons to justify the transformation as follows (Rhee 2019):

- to exemplify the internationalization of a Korean journal to other Korean scholarly publishers,
- to model how to publish an electronic journal and to model open access (OA) publishing,
- to test KISTI's publishing systems on an actual journal,
- to present good practices to Korean scholarly publishers,
- to contribute to the field of global science and technology information by collecting, managing, and distributing high-quality papers,
- to provide a place for international scholarly communication,
- to enhance KISTI's reputation in the world.

Based on the strategic long term plan and suggestions of the report and direct financial and personnel supports from KISTI, JISTaP has launched in 2013 as a new international journal with 27 international editorial board members from more than eight countries (now from more than 14 countries). The author has initiated the feasibility study and taken the responsibility of co-EIC also from the start, and organized the editorial board with the cooperation with KISTI team. The first issue of quarterly journal was published in March of 2013.

3 CURRENT STATUS AND PROSPECT OF JISTaP

JISTaP has been published successfully without any problem, with the cooperation between editorial team and KISTI. Key members from KISTI also participate in the editorial team as associate editor and managing editor. General report based on the perspective from KISTI has already been published (Rhee 2019).

As a quarterly journal, it has been published on March, June, September, and December of each year. Till now each issue except Vol. 1, No.1 has published 5 articles (see Table 2), most of which are research papers. In some cases, it includes invited paper also. Majority of authors are from Korea (24%, 56), India (23%, 55), USA (10%, 23), Nigeria (9%, 22), Germany (8%, 19), and others (see Figure 1).

Table 2 Publication Data by Type

Type	Vol 1 (2013)	Vol 2 (2014)	Vol 3 (2015)	Vol 4 (2016)	Vol 5 (2017)	Vol 6 (2018)	Total
Research Paper	15	18	15	17	16	19	100
Invited Paper	4	1	3	2	3	1	14
Technical Report	1	1	1	1	1	0	5
Review Paper	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Survey Report	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	22	20	20	20	20	20	122

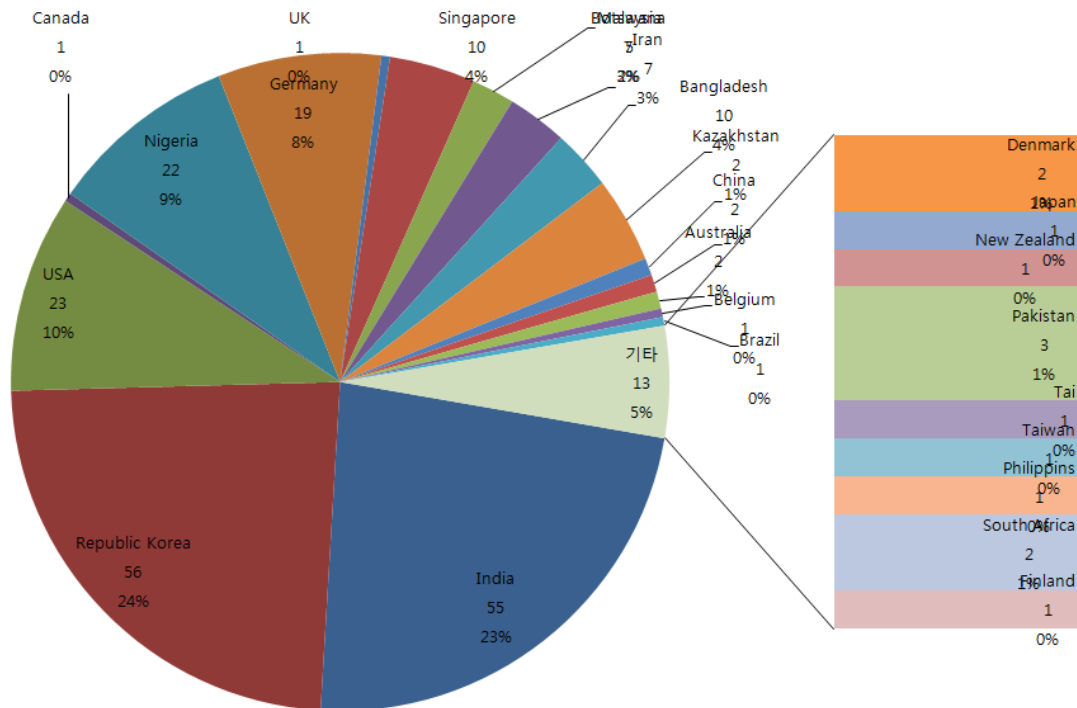


Figure 1 Author by Nations (2013 (Vol.1 No.1)~2018 (Vol.6 No.3))

As an international journal, manuscripts for JISTaP have been peer-reviewed before publishing by the reviewers from international scholarly community. From the EIC's perspective, it must be a most difficult process to invite good reviewers from related areas those who are willing to participate in the peer review. Only about the half of the submitted manuscript can be successfully published in JISTaP till now. Many of them of the published have been revised through the review processes, and some of them have been withdrawn after the notification of major revisions, as suggested in Table 3. Depend on the general quality of the manuscript, some articles have been reviewed and published very quickly, and other even not reviewed so long

time and at last rejected. The simple fact is that if the article seems to be high quality one, almost everybody want to accept the review invitations, but if it is not, nobody seems to be willing to accept it.

Table 3 Result of Review

	Number of Article						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Accept	12	17	19	19	20	20	107
Reject	18	15	16	21	16	9	95
Major Revision	15	3	7	2	3	11	41
Major Revision-Withdrawn	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
Minor Revision	13	2	-	-	2	-	17
Recommendation completed	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
In progress	13	9	6	13	10	10	61
Total	73	54	48	55	51	50	331

After the listing of Scopus, it seems that the publisher KISTI can have more justifications to support JISTaP, and that international scholars have more attention to the journal. Through the various channel, editorial team has tried to promote and marketing the journal internationally, highlighting the merits of it such as no-fee free submission, high quality free English copy editing service for the accepted article, quick turn-around time, those as gold OA journal, etc. But it also cannot help having disadvantages as a newly started journal published by an institution not by commercial publisher or by scholarly organization. It is our hope and vision to overcome these difficulties to be one of the best journals in our area soon based on the cooperation with other colleagues in our community.

Upon the reviewers in 2018, 33.3% of them are Korean. Among the reviewers from other countries, those from India and USA are 11.8% respectively, and those from Malaysia and Singapore, etc. follow. Reviewers from more than 14 countries participate in the reviews of the JISTaP (see Table 4). JISTaP headquarter has tried to invite various reviewers from more countries, in order to reflect the various perspectives from various scholars. Figure 2 shows the general statistics of the reviewers from the first issue to the issue of 2018, No.3.

Table 4 Reviewers by Nations 2018

Nations		Frequency	%
Republic of Korea		17	33.3
Other Nations	India	6	11.8
	USA	6	11.8
	Malaysia	4	7.8
	Singapore	3	5.9
	Austria	2	3.9
	Australia	2	3.9
	Germany	2	3.9
	Bangladesh	1	2.0
	Brazil	1	2.0
	Iran	1	2.0
	Nigeria	1	2.0
	Philippine	1	2.0
	Thailand	1	2.0
	Total	31	60.8
unknown		3	5.9
Grand total		51	100.0

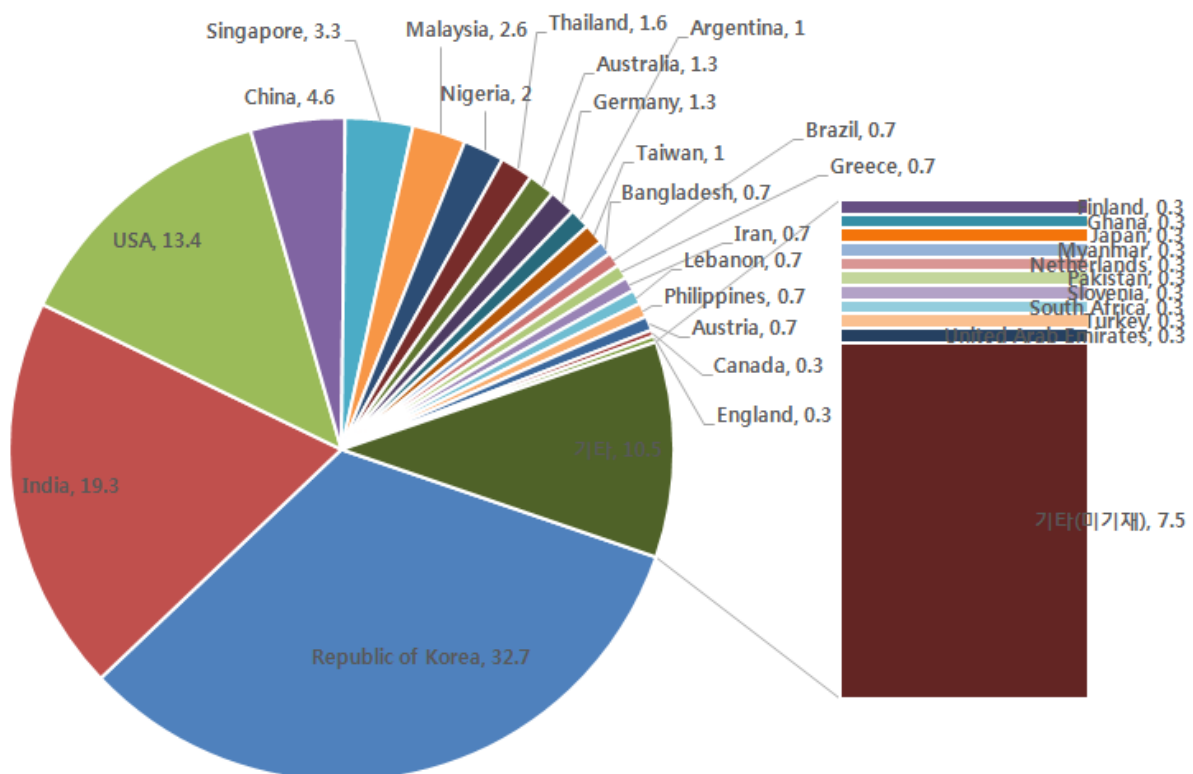


Figure 2 Reviewer by Nations (2013 (Vol.1 No.1)~2018 (Vol.6 No.3))

Related to the promotion of the journal, JISTaP has its own homepage in KISTI site at www.jistap.org (see Figure 3). This site is also used as a main channel to submit the manuscript for JISTaP.

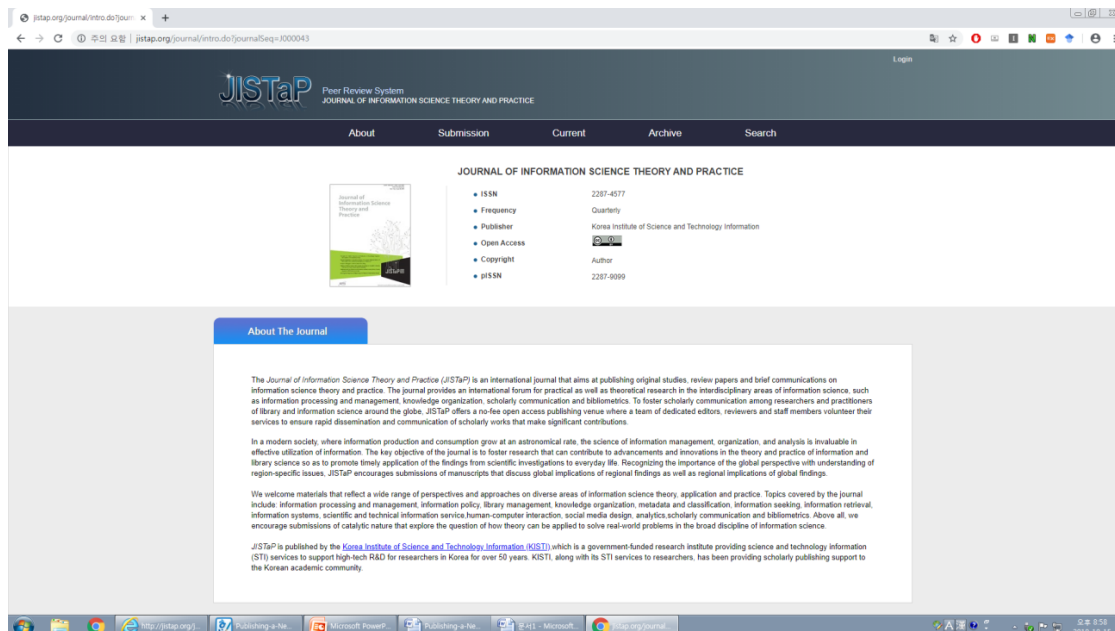


Figure 3 JISTaP Homepage

And one of the JISTaP Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Oh, has used SNS such as Facebook and LinkedIn effectively to marketing the journal (see Figure 4 and 5). Through these SNS, Dr. Oh has continuously provided various kinds of information about JISTaP.

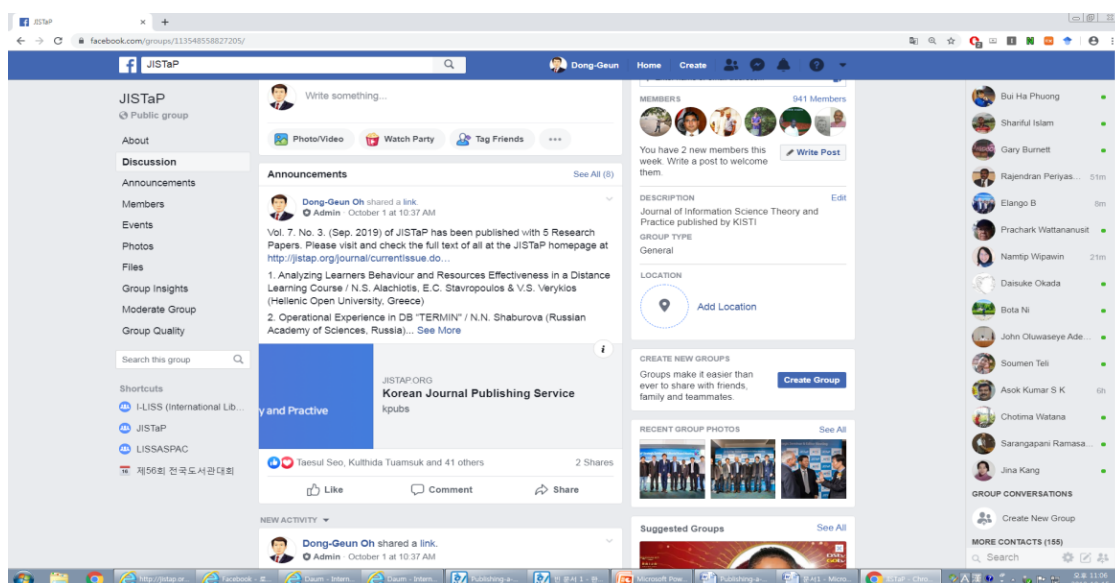


Figure 4 JISTaP Page in Facebook

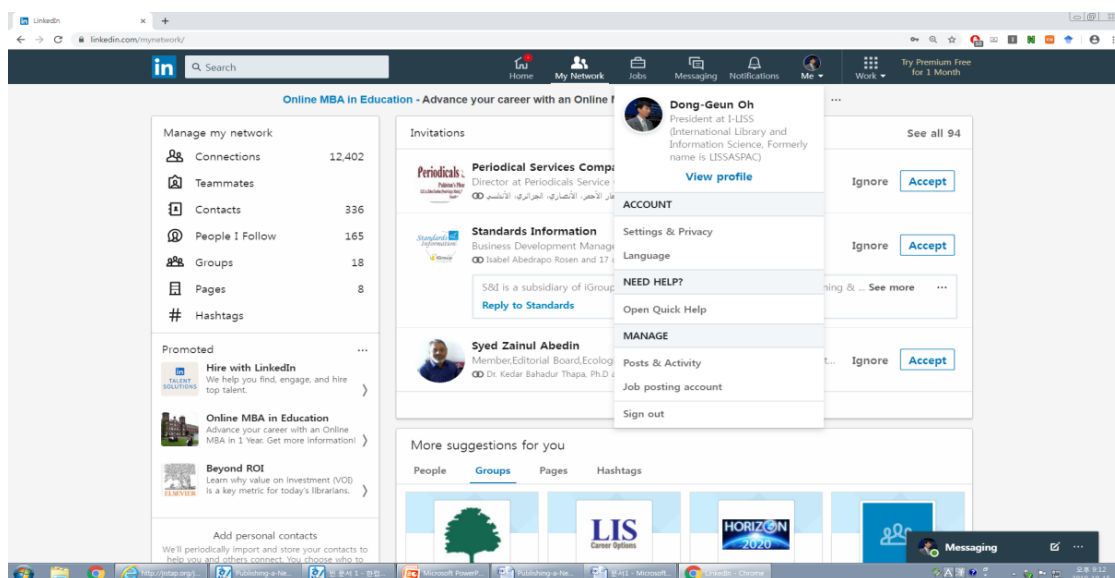


Figure 5 LinkedIn Page of JISTaP EIC

4 CONCLUDING REMARKS

After transforming from a domestic journal into an international journal based on feasibility research, JISTaP has been developed continuously and evaluated good enough to be enlisted in Scopus within very short time.

There must be many reasons making it a journal comparable with some of other journals which have long histories in our fields. Cooperative efforts of editorial teams from university and KISTI team, good financial and technological supports from the supporting organization (KISTI), EICs' good and wide international personal relationships, continuous supports from international colleagues in library and information sciences communities including I-LISS, etc. must be good examples of the reasons.

We cannot sure whether JISTaP can go a long way hereafter like former history or can be developed as better journal, in the competition with other excellent international journals. But we hope that it can be flourished more in the future with the supports and interests from LIS community.

This presentation is based on the personal experiences as an EIC of newly started international journal named JISTaP, who has suggested an idea to transform a domestic journal into an international one, done feasibility research, and served as one of the EIC of it from the start during last 7 years long. So it can be a good idea to those who want to initiate to publish a new international journal.

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