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Research Article

Research Productivity, Collaboration and Citation Impact of the Journal of Scientometric Research: A Bibliometric Study (2012-2025)

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the longitudinal intellectual and structural evolution of the Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR) during 2012-2025, moving beyond descriptive measures of publication productivity and citation impact to examine changes in its thematic, authorship, institutional, geographical, and collaborative structures. Bibliographic records were compiled from Scopus, Web of Science, and the journal's official records, followed by data cleaning, standardisation, and deduplication. The analysis examines publication trajectories, authorship configurations, collaboration structures, prolific contributors, institutional and country networks, citation influence, and thematic evolution across successive periods. The findings reveal a multi-phase development trajectory, with a marked expansion in publication activity after 2019 accompanied by increasing thematic differentiation. Collaboration is widespread but predominantly organised through relatively small author teams, while a limited group of authors and Indian institutions forms an important intellectual and organizational core. At the geographical level, India constitutes the principal production centre, whereas several lower-output countries occupy more internationally connected positions, revealing an asymmetric centre-periphery structure. Citation influence is concentrated around a small number of methodological and evaluative contributions, particularly those associated with bibliometric tools, science mapping, and research assessment. The thematic trajectory further indicates a gradual transition from established bibliometric and scientometric concerns towards research evaluation, altmetrics, scholarly communication, science mapping, and computational approaches. Overall, JSR's development reflects not merely quantitative growth but a reconfiguration of its intellectual centre, thematic boundaries, and patterns of scholarly engagement. The study positions JSR as an India-rooted yet increasingly internationally connected platform whose evolution has been shaped by the interaction between established research traditions and emerging scientometric domains.

Keywords: Authorship pattern, Bibliometric analysis, Citation analysis, Citation impact, Institutional productivity, Research output, Research trends.

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INTRODUCTION

The rapid expansion of scholarly communication has increased the need for systematic methods to measure research productivity, visibility, and scientific impact. Bibliometrics provides a quantitative framework for analyzing patterns in scholarly literature through publications, citations, authorship, collaboration, and thematic structures. Pritchard (1969) introduced the term bibliometrics to describe the application of statistical and mathematical methods to written communication, while subsequent developments established bibliometrics and scientometrics as important approaches for understanding the growth and structure of scientific knowledge (Hood and Wilson, 2001; White and McCain, 1992). Bibliometric analysis is now widely used for evaluating research performance at the level of authors, institutions, countries, disciplines, and scholarly journals.

Citation analysis is an important component of bibliometric evaluation because citations provide an observable indication of the use and influence of scholarly publications. However, citation counts should not be interpreted as direct measures of research quality, since citation behaviour is influenced by disciplinary practices, publication age, accessibility, collaboration, and other contextual factors (Bornmann and Daniel, 2008; Moed, 2005). Waltman (2016) emphasised that citation-impact indicators have different purposes and limitations and should therefore

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be interpreted within an appropriate methodological context. At the journal level, indicators such as total citations, average citations per publication, h-index, and highly cited publications can provide complementary evidence of scholarly visibility and impact.

The reliability of bibliometric assessment also depends substantially on the bibliographic database used. Scopus and Web of Science are among the most widely used sources for bibliometric and citation analysis, but their coverage and citation counts are not identical. Archambault *et al.* (2009) demonstrated differences between bibliometric statistics derived from Scopus and Web of Science, while Mongeon and Paul-Hus (2016) reported substantial differences in journal coverage between the two databases. Martín-Martín *et al.* (2018) similarly identified differences in citation coverage among Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus. Consequently, transparent database selection, search strategies, retrieval dates, data cleaning, and citation-count procedures are essential for ensuring the validity and reproducibility of bibliometric studies.

In addition to publication and citation indicators, bibliometric analysis can reveal the intellectual and social structure of a research field. Co-authorship analysis helps identify patterns of scholarly collaboration and relationships among authors, institutions, and countries (Glänzel, 2002; Gazni *et al.*, 2012). Keyword and co-word analysis can identify dominant research topics and their conceptual relationships (Callon *et al.*, 1991), while thematic evolution analysis can demonstrate how research priorities change over time (Cobo *et al.*, 2011). The availability of specialised tools such as VOSviewer and Bibliometrix has further facilitated the visualisation and interpretation of bibliometric networks and thematic structures (van Eck and Waltman, 2010; Aria and Cuccurullo, 2017).

The Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR), with Print ISSN 2321-6654 and Online ISSN 2320-0057, provides an important publication platform for research in scientometrics, bibliometrics, informetrics, research evaluation, and related areas of scholarly communication. Since its establishment, the journal has contributed to the dissemination of research addressing quantitative and analytical aspects of science and scholarly communication. Given the journal's subject orientation, an assessment of its own research output and citation impact is particularly relevant for understanding its publication growth, scholarly influence, research collaboration, and thematic development.

Several previous studies have examined different aspects of JSR. Bhattacharya (2012) provided early contextual information concerning the journal's editorial development. Giri and Das (2023) examined the statistical characteristics of the first eleven volumes of the journal, providing an overview of its publication pattern and development. Hakkaraki (2023) conducted a bibliometric analysis of JSR using the Dimensions database and examined publication characteristics, citation patterns, author productivity, and highly cited publications. Garg *et al.* (2024) comparatively analysed the bibliometric characteristics of JSR and COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management, while Daimari and Verma (2024) investigated gender-related characteristics of open-access LIS research published in JSR. These studies demonstrate sustained interest in understanding the journal's scholarly characteristics, but they differ in terms of database coverage, study period, and analytical scope. Despite these contributions, a comprehensive and updated assessment of the research output and citation impact of JSR over the period 2012-2025 remains necessary. Existing studies have generally focused on particular periods, individual databases, comparative characteristics, or specific aspects of authorship and publication behaviour. An integrated assessment combining publication productivity, citation performance, authorship patterns, author productivity, institutional and country-wise contributions, collaboration networks, highly cited publications, keyword structures, and thematic development can provide a more complete understanding of the journal's scholarly trajectory.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Bibliometric research provides a systematic approach for evaluating scholarly communication through quantitative analysis of publications, citations, authorship, collaboration, and thematic development. The term bibliometrics was formally introduced by Pritchard (1969), who described it as the application of statistical and mathematical methods to books and other media of communication. Earlier and subsequent developments established bibliometrics, scientometrics, and informetrics as important approaches for assessing the structure, productivity, visibility, and impact of scholarly communication (White and McCain, 1992; Hood and Wilson, 2001). These approaches are particularly relevant to journal-level studies because they facilitate the assessment of publication productivity, citation performance, authorship patterns, and research themes.

Citation analysis constitutes an important component of bibliometric evaluation. Bornmann and Daniel (2008) emphasised that citation counts should be interpreted carefully because citations reflect multiple aspects of scholarly communication and are influenced by citing practices. Moed (2005) similarly highlighted the importance of citation analysis in research evaluation, while Glänzel and Moed (2002) discussed the use and interpretation of journal impact measures. Waltman (2016) provided a comprehensive review of citation-impact indicators and emphasised the importance of understanding the strengths and limitations of different indicators when evaluating research performance. These perspectives provide the conceptual basis for assessing the citation impact of the Journal of Scientometric Research. The selection of bibliographic

databases is another important methodological consideration in bibliometric research. Archambault *et al.* (2009) demonstrated that bibliometric statistics derived from Scopus and Web of Science can differ because of variations in database coverage and indexing practices. Mongeon and Paul-Hus (2016) further showed substantial differences in journal coverage between Web of Science and Scopus. Martín-Martín *et al.* (2018) also demonstrated differences in citation coverage among Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus. These studies indicate that the choice of database can influence publication and citation results and therefore support the use of clearly defined database sources and retrieval procedures in the present study.

Bibliometric science mapping has developed considerably with the availability of specialised analytical software. van Eck and Waltman (2010) introduced VOSviewer as a tool for constructing and visualising bibliometric networks, including co-authorship and keyword co-occurrence networks. Aria and Cuccurullo (2017) developed the Bibliometrix R package as a comprehensive framework for science mapping and bibliometric analysis. Zupic and Čater (2015) reviewed major bibliometric methods and highlighted the usefulness of co-citation, bibliographic coupling, co-word analysis, and co-authorship analysis for identifying the intellectual and social structure of research fields. Cobo *et al.* (2011) demonstrated approaches for identifying and visualising the evolution of research themes, while Callon *et al.* (1991) established co-word analysis as an effective method for examining relationships among research concepts. Small (1973) similarly introduced co-citation analysis as a means of identifying relationships among scientific documents.

Authorship and collaboration are important dimensions of research productivity and scholarly communication. Glänzel (2002) examined co-authorship patterns and demonstrated the value of collaboration analysis for understanding the organisation of scientific research. Wuchty *et al.* (2007) reported the increasing importance of collaborative teams in knowledge production, while Gazni *et al.* (2012) demonstrated how author, institutional, and country-level collaboration can be mapped to reveal the structure of global scientific cooperation. Abrizah *et al.* (2013), in their bibliometric study of LIS journals, combined productivity and thematic analysis to examine the development and intellectual structure of library and information science research. These studies provide a methodological basis for examining authorship and collaboration patterns in the Journal of Scientometric Research.

Several studies have specifically examined the Journal of Scientometric Research, thereby providing an important foundation for the present investigation. Bhattacharya (2012) provided early contextual information concerning the journal and its editorial board. Giri and Das (2023) conducted a statistical assessment of the first eleven volumes of the Journal of Scientometric Research, examining its publication characteristics and development during its early years. Hakkaraki (2023) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the journal using the Dimensions database, focusing on publication characteristics, citation patterns, author productivity, and highly cited publications. Garg *et al.* (2024) conducted a comparative bibliometric study of the COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management and the Journal of Scientometric Research, examining similarities and differences in their bibliometric characteristics. Daimari and Verma (2024) further examined gender-related characteristics of open-access LIS research published in the Journal of Scientometric Research. Collectively, these studies demonstrate the growing scholarly interest in evaluating the publication characteristics and research structure of JSR.

The existing JSR-specific literature, however, differs in terms of coverage period, database source, analytical focus, and bibliometric indicators. Giri and Das (2023) concentrated on the statistical characteristics of the journal's first eleven volumes, while Hakkaraki (2023) employed the Dimensions database. Garg *et al.* (2024) adopted a comparative journal-level perspective, and Daimari and Verma (2024) focused on gender characteristics. Consequently, there remains scope for an updated and comprehensive assessment of the journal's research output and citation impact over the extended period 2012-2025, integrating publication productivity with citation performance, authorship, collaboration, institutional and geographical contributions, highly cited publications, keyword structures, and thematic development. Recent bibliometric studies also demonstrate the continuing relevance of journal-level evaluation. Mondal (2025) examined a decade of research in *BEMS Reports* using bibliometric methods, while Mondal (2026) analysed research output and impact in data science and informetrics through a journal-specific bibliometric study. These studies illustrate the usefulness of combining productivity, citation, authorship, collaboration, and thematic indicators to provide a comprehensive assessment of a journal's scholarly development.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR), with Print ISSN 2321-6654 and Online ISSN 2320-0057, has emerged as an important scholarly platform in scientometrics, bibliometrics, informetrics, and research evaluation. Although previous studies have examined selected aspects of the journal's publication characteristics, bibliometric performance, and authorship patterns, a comprehensive and updated assessment of its research output and citation impact for the period 2012-2025 is limited. Existing studies vary in their coverage periods, data sources, and analytical approaches, making it difficult to obtain an integrated view of the journal's publication growth, citation performance, authorship, collaboration, institutional contributions, and thematic development. Therefore, a systematic bibliometric

investigation is required to evaluate the research productivity, scholarly visibility, citation impact, collaboration structure, and evolving research themes of JSR during 2012-2025. The present study addresses this gap through a structured analysis of the journal's bibliographic and citation characteristics.

Objectives Of The Study

The study aims to assess the research output and citation impact of the Journal of Scientometric Research (2012-2025). Specifically, it seeks to:

- Analyse the growth and publication productivity of the journal.
- Assess citation performance, including total citations, average citations per publication, and h-index.
- Examine authorship patterns, author productivity, and collaboration.
- Identify leading institutions, countries, and collaborative networks.
- Identify highly cited publications and their contribution to the journal's impact.
- Analyse keyword occurrence, co-occurrence, and major research themes.
- Examine the thematic evolution of research published in the journal during 2012-2025.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopts a descriptive bibliometric research design to assess the research output and citation impact of the *Journal of Scientometric* during 2012-2024. Bibliographic data were retrieved from Scopus, Web of Science (WoS), and the official journal website, using the journal title and ISSN as the primary search identifiers. The search was restricted to publications published between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2025, with data retrieved in Jan 2025- Jan 2026.

Records were included when they belonged to the *Journal of Scientometric* and fell within the specified period. Duplicate records and publications outside the defined scope were excluded. Records retrieved from different sources were merged and deduplicated primarily using DOI, while title, author, year, volume, issue, and article/page information were used for verification where DOI was unavailable. Author names, institutional affiliations, countries, and keywords were standardised before analysis.

The study examines annual publication growth, total citations, average citations per publication, h-index, author productivity, authorship pattern, institutional and country-wise contributions, collaboration patterns, highly cited publications, and keyword occurrence and co-occurrence. Citation counts were recorded according to the selected database on the retrieval date and interpreted with consideration of differences in publication age and citation windows.

Bibliometrix / Biblioshiny (R) was used for bibliometric and thematic analysis, while Microsoft Excel was employed for data cleaning, validation, tabulation, and descriptive calculations. The analytical process followed a systematic workflow of data retrieval, screening, deduplication, cleaning, analysis, visualisation, and interpretation, thereby ensuring methodological transparency and reproducibility.

Scope And Limitations Of The Study

The study focuses exclusively on the Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR), Print ISSN 2321-6654 and Online ISSN 2320-0057, covering publications from 2012 to 2025. It examines publication productivity, annual growth, citation performance, authorship patterns, author productivity, institutional and country-wise contributions, collaboration networks, highly cited publications, keyword co-occurrence, and thematic development. Bibliographic and citation data obtained from Scopus, Web of Science, and the journal's official website are used to provide a comprehensive assessment of the journal's research output and scholarly impact.

The study is subject to certain limitations. Citation counts are database- and retrieval-date dependent and may vary between Scopus and Web of Science. Recently published articles, particularly those from 2024-2025, have shorter citation windows and may therefore receive fewer citations than older publications. Differences in database coverage, metadata completeness, author-name variations, institutional affiliations, and keyword indexing may also affect the results. The study is limited to a single journal and the period 2012-2025; therefore, its findings should not be generalised to the entire field of scientometrics. Furthermore, bibliometric indicators measure observable publication and citation patterns and should not be interpreted as direct measures of the intrinsic quality of individual research contributions.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 reveals a multi-phase evolution in the publication trajectory of the Journal of Scientometric Research during 2012-2025, rather than a uniform year-on-year increase. The early period is characterised by relatively modest and fluctuating publication output, suggesting a formative phase in which the journal was consolidating its publication base and intellectual positioning. A visible transition occurs around 2019, after which publication activity expands more substantially and the journal enters a phase of accelerated growth. The increasing output in the subsequent years indicates not merely greater productivity but a broader expansion of the journal's publishing activity and thematic reach.

The post-2019 expansion can be interpreted against the wider transformation of scientometric research, where research evaluation, bibliometric analytics, science mapping, open science, research impact, and computational approaches to scholarly communication gained increasing prominence. However, the temporal pattern should not be interpreted as evidence of causality solely from publication counts. Rather, the increase provides an important inflexion point for examining whether the journal's intellectual structure also changed during this period.

From a longitudinal perspective, 2019 therefore represents a potentially important structural transition that warrants comparison of the journal's thematic, authorship, citation, and collaboration networks before and after the transition. If subsequent analyses demonstrate the emergence of new thematic clusters, changes in core-periphery relationships, new author communities, or greater cross-field connectivity after this point, the publication growth may be understood as part of a broader reconfiguration of the journal's intellectual structure, rather than simply an increase in output. Thus, Figure 1 establishes the temporal foundation for investigating how and why the journal's research landscape evolved across successive phases between 2012 and 2025.

Table 1 indicates that the Journal of Scientometric Research exhibits a predominantly collaborative but relatively compact authorship structure. Multi-authored publications account for 75.31% of the total output, with two-authored (31.79%) and three-authored (25.62%) papers forming the dominant authorship configurations. Single-authored studies nevertheless constitute a substantial 24.69%, indicating that individual scholarship continues to retain an important position within the journal's intellectual landscape. Publications involving four or more authors are comparatively limited, suggesting that large-scale team authorship has not been the dominant mode of scholarly production.

Importantly, these findings should not be interpreted simply as evidence that "collaboration is increasing." Rather, the distribution points to a specific structure of scholarly engagement: research appears to be organised primarily through small, tightly bounded author groups, with two- and three-author teams accounting for more than half of the journal's publications. This pattern may reflect concentrated intellectual partnerships, mentor-student research relationships, or specialized thematic engagements rather than large network-based collaboration.

However, the aggregate authorship pattern does not reveal how these collaborative structures evolved over time or how they relate to thematic fields. Therefore, the authorship distribution provides a starting point for a deeper longitudinal analysis of whether particular author configurations became associated with emerging themes, whether new collaborative communities entered the journal at specific inflection points, and whether the journal gradually shifted from individual scholarship towards networked research production. Such analysis would help establish the structural character of collaboration, rather than merely quantifying its prevalence.

Table 2 provides a longitudinal view of the degree of collaboration (DC) in the Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR) during 2012-2025 and reveals that collaboration is not simply prevalent but has developed as a persistent feature of the journal's scholarly production structure. Across the study period, 378 of 501 publications (75.45%) were multi-authored, producing an overall

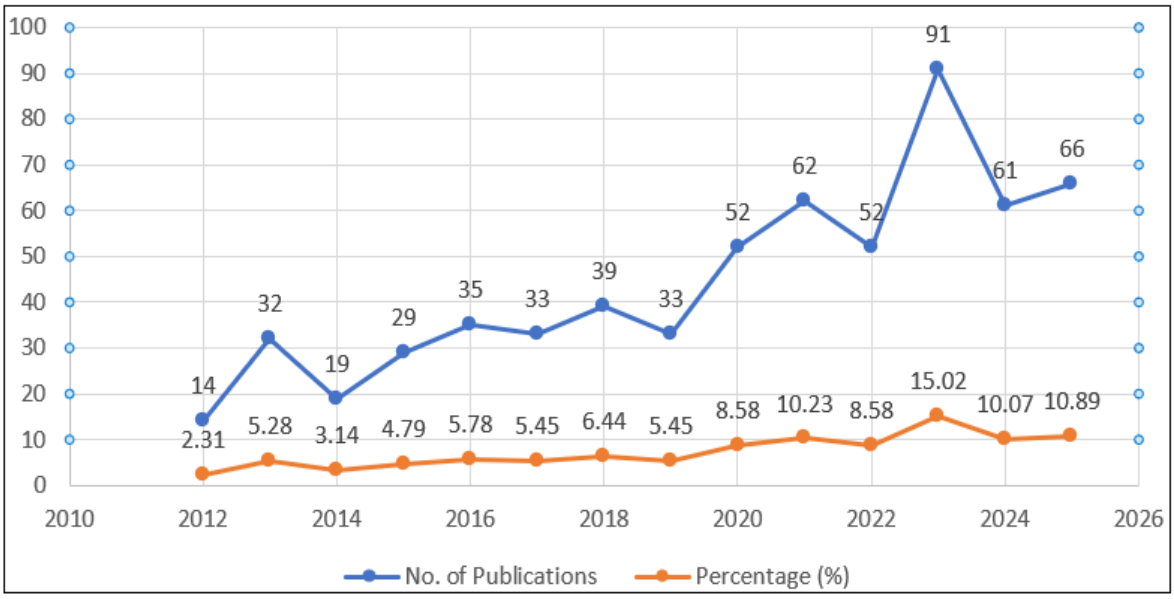

Figure 1: Year-wise Distribution of Publications in the Journal of Scientometric Research (2012-2025) Source: Compiled from bibliographic records and previous journal-level bibliometric evidence. The 2012-2022 series is consistent with the publication counts reported by Giri and Das (2023), while currently available journal-level databases report 91 publications for 2023, 61 for 2024, and 66 for 2025.

Table 1: Authorship Pattern of Publications in the Journal of Scientometric Research (2012-2025).

Authorship Pattern	No. of Publications	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Publications	Cumulative (%)
Single author	80	24.69	80	24.69
Two authors	103	31.79	183	56.48
Three authors	83	25.62	266	82.10
Four authors	40	12.35	306	94.45
Five authors	12	3.70	318	98.15
Six or more authors	6	1.85	324	100.00
Total	324	100.00	324	100.00

Source: Compiled from Giri and Das (2023). The study analysed 324 research communications of the Journal of Scientometric Research after excluding editorials and book reviews.

DC of 0.754. However, the annual variation-from 0.609 in 2016 to a markedly high 0.938 in 2022-suggests that collaborative engagement has not evolved uniformly.

The temporal pattern indicates several potentially meaningful phases. The comparatively lower DC in the earlier period, particularly in 2016 (0.609), contrasts with the stronger collaborative orientation observed in subsequent years. The exceptionally high value in 2022 (0.938) represents a notable inflection point, when almost all publications were produced collaboratively. The subsequent reduction in 2023 (0.741), followed by renewed increases in 2024 (0.787) and 2025 (0.788), suggests that the 2022 peak was not simply a linear continuation of growth but may represent a temporary restructuring or intensification of collaborative activity.

More importantly, the DC values alone do not explain the structure or intellectual character of these collaborations. A high DC can result from numerous small and disconnected author teams as well as from highly interconnected research communities. Therefore, the observed increase in collaborative authorship should be examined alongside co-authorship network density, community structure, centrality, author turnover, and thematic affiliations. Such analysis can determine whether the post-2019 expansion of JSR was accompanied by the emergence of new research communities, stronger integration among existing groups, or merely an increase in independent collaborative teams.

The sustained collaborative orientation may plausibly reflect the increasing methodological complexity of scientometric research, particularly the integration of bibliometric databases, computational techniques, science mapping, research evaluation, and quantitative analytical methods. Nevertheless, this interpretation requires validation through thematic and network evidence. Thus, Table 2 should be regarded not merely as evidence that "JSR is collaborative," but as a temporal signal of changing scholarly organisation, providing a basis for investigating how collaboration was structured, which actors occupied central or bridging positions, and how these networks interacted with the journal's evolving thematic landscape.

Table 3 identifies the ten most prolific authors contributing to the Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR) during 2012-2025 and reveals a concentrated but internationally connected authorship structure. B. M. Gupta occupies the highest position with 11 publications, followed by Ritu Gupta and S. M. Dhawan with eight each. Anup Kumar Das, Sujit Bhattacharya, Vivek Kumar Singh, and Snehanshu Saha contributed six publications each, while Pranav N. Desai, Grant Lewison, and Ronald N. Kostoff contributed five each. The relatively narrow productivity range among the leading contributors suggests the presence of a recognizable core group of recurrent contributors, rather than a completely dispersed authorship landscape.

The strong representation of Indian researchers-eight of the ten most prolific authors-indicates that India constitutes an important intellectual base within JSR's publication structure. At the same time, the inclusion of Grant Lewison (UK) and Ronald N. Kostoff (USA) suggests that the journal's core authorship is not entirely geographically closed. However, international representation among prolific authors should not automatically be equated with internationalisation. A stronger interpretation requires examination of cross-national co-authorship links, institutional connectivity, and the position of international authors within the journal's collaboration network.

The fractional contribution values further complicate the simple ranking based on publication counts. B. M. Gupta records the highest fractional contribution (4.081), while Ronald N. Kostoff records 5.000, followed by S. M. Dhawan (2.915) and Anup Kumar Das (2.833). These differences indicate that publication frequency and substantive authorship contribution do not necessarily coincide, highlighting the importance of considering authorship structure when identifying intellectual influence.

More importantly, the presence of a prolific core raises a longitudinal question that cannot be answered by productivity rankings alone: Has this core group remained structurally central throughout 2012-2025, or has the composition of the journal's intellectual centre changed across different periods? Tracking these authors across temporal phases, together with their thematic affiliations and network centrality, could reveal

whether established contributors acted as knowledge anchors, thematic specialists, or bridges connecting emerging research communities. Conversely, identifying when new authors entered the core and which themes they introduced would help explain the journal's intellectual transition.

Thus, Table 4 should be interpreted as evidence of a core-periphery authorship structure, rather than simply a ranking of productive authors. The critical next step is to determine how this core evolved, which thematic domains it controlled or connected, and whether the expansion of JSR after its major publication-growth phase was accompanied by renewal, consolidation, or reconfiguration of its intellectual leadership.

Table 5 reveals a distinctly India-centred but internationally connected institutional structure in the Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR) during 2012-2025. Eight of the ten leading institutions are located in India, with CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS) occupying the leading position with 27 publications, followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) with 18. Banaras Hindu University, PES University/PESIT Bangalore, and the National Physical Laboratory each contribute eight publications. This concentration indicates that JSR's institutional knowledge base has been anchored substantially within a relatively small set of Indian research and higher-education organizations.

Table 2: Degree of Collaboration in the Journal of Scientometric Research (2012-2025).

Year	Single-authored (Ns)	Multi-authored (Nm)	Total Publications	Degree of Collaboration (DC)
2012	2	8	10	0.800
2013	11	18	29	0.621
2014	3	15	18	0.833
2015	3	19	22	0.864
2016	9	14	23	0.609
2017	8	15	23	0.652
2018	10	16	26	0.615
2019	8	17	25	0.680
2020	10	34	44	0.773
2021	13	43	56	0.768
2022	3	45	48	0.938
2023	14	40	54	0.741
2024	13	48	61	0.787
2025	14	52	66	0.788
Total	123	378	501	0.754

Source: Compiled from Giri and Das (2023). Their analysis identified 324 research communications, comprising 80 single-authored and 244 multi-authored papers.

Table 3: Top 10 Prolific Authors in the Journal of Scientometric Research (2012-2025).

Rank	Prolific Author	No. of Articles	Fractional Contribution	Country
1	B. M. Gupta	11	4.081	India
2	Ritu Gupta	8	2.580	India
3	S. M. Dhawan	8	2.915	India
4	Anup Kumar Das	6	2.833	India
5	Sujit Bhattacharya	6	2.749	India
6	Vivek Kumar Singh	6	1.749	India
7	Snehanshu Saha	6	1.479	India
8	Pranav N. Desai	5	2.083	India
9	Grant Lewison	5	1.694	United Kingdom
10	Ronald N. Kostoff	5	5.000	United States
Total	-	66	-	-

Source: Giri and Das (2023), based on Scopus data and full-counting analysis of JSR publications during 2012-2022.

Table 4: Leading Institutions by Publications in the Journal of Scientometric Research (2012-2025).

Rank	Institution	Country	No. of Publications	Percentage of Publications	Fractional Contribution
1	CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS)	India	27	15.32	13.00
2	Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)	India	18	15.08	22.00
3	Banaras Hindu University (BHU)	India	8	5.17	8.00
4	PES University/PESIT Bangalore	India	8	4.86	11.00
5	National Physical Laboratory (NPL)	India	8	2.92	1.00
6	Sri Venkateshwara University (SVU)	India	7	2.25	1.00
7	Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)	Brazil	6	4.43	10.00
8	Symbiosis International University (SIU)	India	6	4.25	11.00
9	Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT)	USA	5	5.00	1.00
10	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)	India	5	4.67	6.00

Source: Giri and Das (2023), Journal of Scientometric Research, *12*(3), 739-754.

The prominence of CSIR-NISTADS and JNU is particularly important because their contribution may represent more than high publication productivity. Their sustained presence potentially reflects institutionalized research capacity in science and technology studies, scientometrics, research evaluation, and quantitative analysis of scholarly communication. Consequently, these institutions may have functioned as important knowledge-production centers within JSR, rather than merely as prolific organizational contributors.

At the same time, the appearance of Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and Georgia Institute of Technology (USA) among the ten leading institutions indicates that the journal's institutional structure is not completely confined to India. However, the limited number of international institutions suggests a potentially asymmetric centre-periphery configuration, in which Indian institutions occupy the central production space while international institutions constitute smaller but potentially important external nodes. Whether these international institutions serve as peripheral contributors or as bridging nodes connecting otherwise separated institutional communities requires network-level analysis.

The fractional contribution values provide an additional perspective. JNU records the highest fractional contribution (22.00), followed by CSIR-NISTADS (13.00), while differences between full and fractional counts indicate varying degrees of shared institutional authorship. This distinction is important because publication counts alone can exaggerate the apparent dominance of institutions participating extensively in multi-institutional papers.

More importantly, Table 5 raises a longitudinal question central to understanding JSR's intellectual development: Has the institutional centre remained stable, or has it been progressively reconfigured? A period-wise institutional co-authorship network could identify whether CSIR-NISTADS and JNU retained central positions across successive phases, whether new institutions entered the core, and whether international institutions became more structurally integrated after the journal's expansion. Linking these institutional networks with thematic clusters would further reveal which institutions were associated with established themes, which introduced emerging topics, and which acted as bridges across thematic communities.

Thus, rather than simply demonstrating institutional productivity, Table 5 points towards an underlying institutional geography of knowledge production in JSR. The key analytical issue is not only which institutions publish most, but how institutional power, thematic specialisation, network connectivity, and international participation have interacted to shape the journal's evolving intellectual structure.

Table 5 reveals a strongly asymmetric international structure in the geographical distribution of research published in the Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR) during 2012-2025. India accounts for 147 publications (45.37%), substantially exceeding Iran (26; 8.02%) and Brazil (21; 6.48%), followed by the United States (16), Turkey (11), and China (10). Rather than representing a uniformly international publication landscape, these figures indicate the coexistence of a dominant national knowledge-production centre and a dispersed international periphery. India therefore appears to constitute the principal geographical core of JSR, while a wider

group of countries contributes smaller but potentially structurally significant research communities.

The distinction between publication volume and international connectedness is particularly revealing. Countries such as the Netherlands (62.50%), the United Kingdom (55.55%), South Africa and Germany (57.14% each), and Saudi Arabia (50.00%) exhibit substantially higher proportions of internationally collaborative publications despite their smaller output. In contrast, India's international collaboration rate of 6.30% suggests that its very large publication contribution is predominantly domestically organised. This creates an important structural contrast: high productivity does not necessarily correspond to high international network integration.

This pattern points towards a potentially differentiated centre-periphery geography of knowledge production. India's central position appears to be based primarily on the scale and continuity of domestic research production, whereas some lower-output countries may occupy more connective positions through international co-authorship. Consequently, a country should not be classified as peripheral solely on the basis of publication volume; its network centrality, betweenness, cross-country links, and thematic bridging role may provide a different assessment of its intellectual position.

The country distribution also raises an important longitudinal question. The current aggregate figures conceal whether JSR's internationalisation occurred gradually or through particular inflection points. Period-wise country networks could determine when Iran, Brazil, the United States, China, Europe, and other regions entered or strengthened their positions, while temporal comparison of international collaboration could establish whether the journal's post-2019 expansion was accompanied by genuine geographical diversification or primarily by increased domestic output.

Furthermore, linking country networks with thematic evolution would provide a deeper explanation of international engagement. It could reveal, for example, whether particular countries became associated with specific emerging subfields, whether international researchers connected previously separate thematic communities, and whether the journal's geographical expansion resulted in greater intellectual integration.

Thus, Table 6 should be interpreted not simply as evidence of JSR's "global reach," but as evidence of a stratified international knowledge structure in which India functions as the dominant production centre while other countries occupy differentiated positions according to productivity, connectivity, and thematic engagement. Understanding how these positions have changed over time would provide stronger evidence of JSR's internationalisation, intellectual diversification, and evolving centre-periphery structure.

Table 6 identifies the ten most highly cited papers published in the Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR) during 2012-2024 and reveals a highly concentrated and thematically differentiated citation structure. Dervis's (2020) "Bibliometric Analysis Using Bibliometrix: An R Package" is a pronounced outlier with 109

Table 5: Country-wise Distribution of Publications in the Journal of Scientometric Research (2012-2025).

Rank	Country	No. of Publications	Percentage (%)	No. of Authors	International Collaborative Papers (%)
1	India	147	45.37	264	6.30
2	Iran	26	8.02	65	3.85
3	Brazil	21	6.48	36	28.57
4	United States	16	4.94	15	25.00
5	Turkey	11	3.40	15	18.18
6	China	10	3.09	20	30.00
7	United Kingdom	9	2.78	11	55.55
8	Saudi Arabia	8	2.47	15	50.00
9	Netherlands	8	2.47	16	62.50
10	Belgium	7	2.16	3	28.57
11	Mexico	7	2.16	12	14.29
12	Spain	7	2.16	9	42.86
13	South Africa	7	2.16	8	57.14
14	Germany	7	2.16	9	57.14
15	Nigeria	5	1.54	3	20.00
Total	-	296	91.36	-	-

Source: Giri and Das (2023), The Journal of Scientometric Research: A Statistical Outlook of the First Eleven Volumes of the Journal, Journal of Scientometric Research, 12(3), 739-754. The original study reports country productivity using full counting (FC), fractional counting (FrC), number of authors, and cross-country collaboration.

citations, more than twice the 42 citations received by Leydesdorff and Felt (2012) and substantially above the remaining highly cited papers. Rather than simply indicating that the journal has produced "high-impact papers," this concentration suggests that methodological contributions capable of being reused across research contexts can occupy a disproportionately influential position within the journal's intellectual structure.

The remaining highly cited papers span several domains, including research evaluation, altmetrics, scholarly communication, national research performance, the Triple Helix model, research funding, and publication productivity. This thematic diversity indicates that citation influence in JSR is not confined to a single research specialty. At the same time, the prominence of methodological and evaluative studies suggests a possible intellectual axis around measurement, assessment, and methodological innovation through which the journal has contributed to the development of scientometric scholarship.

The temporal distribution is also analytically important. Highly cited papers extend from 2012 to 2020, indicating that both relatively established contributions and more recent methodological work have generated sustained scholarly attention. However, citation counts should not be interpreted solely as measures of intellectual importance because older publications have had a longer period in which to accumulate citations. The exceptional performance of the 2020 Bibliometrix paper is therefore particularly noteworthy because its influence appears to have developed rapidly relative to several earlier contributions.

More importantly, the citation ranking provides an opportunity to investigate how influence is structurally distributed across JSR's thematic landscape. A citation count alone cannot establish whether highly cited papers became central because they introduced new methodological approaches, connected previously separated research domains, addressed emerging scholarly needs, or were embedded within already established research communities. Linking highly cited papers with co-citation, bibliographic coupling, citation-network centrality, thematic clusters, and temporal citation trajectories would clarify whether citation influence is concentrated within a stable intellectual core or distributed across successive thematic waves.

The exceptional position of Dervis (2020) may therefore represent more than an isolated citation success. If network and thematic analyses confirm that the paper connects methodological research with multiple substantive scientometric domains, it could be interpreted as an intellectual bridging contribution that helped diffuse software-supported bibliometric analysis across the wider research community.

Table 6: Top 10 Highly Cited Papers in the Journal of Scientometric Research (2012-2024).

Rank	Title of Highly Cited Paper	Author(s)	Year	Citations
1	Bibliometric Analysis Using Bibliometrix: An R Package	Hamid Dervis	2020	109
2	Edited Volumes, Monographs and Book Chapters in the Book Citation Index (BKCI) and Science Citation Index (SCI, SSCI, A&HCI)	Loet Leydesdorff and Ulrike Felt	2012	42
3	Brazilian Growth in the Mainstream Science: The Role of Human Resources and National Journals	Jacqueline Leta	2012	35
4	Genesis of Altimetric or Article-Level Metrics for Measuring Efficacy of Scholarly Communications: Current Perspective	Anup Kumar Das and Sanjaya Mishra	2014	23
5	The Growth of Brazilian Metrics Literature	Rubén Urbizagástegui Alvarado and Cristina Restrepo Arango	2015	22
6	Triple Helix of University-Industry-Government Relationship in West Africa	Eustache Megnigbeto	2013	19
7	Measles: A Quantitative Analysis of World Publication during 2001-2010	Adarsh Bala and B. M. Gupta	2012	16
8	Web of Science Research Funding Information: Methodology for its Use in Analysis and Evaluation	Mursheda Begum and Grant Lewison	2017	16
9	Basic Independence Axioms for the Publication-Citation System	Ronald Rousseau and Fred Y. Ye	2012	16
10	Publication Productivity Pattern of Malaysian Researchers in Scopus from 1995 to 2015	Arvati Bakri, Nurul Mardhiah Azura, M. D. Nadzar, Roliana Ibrahim and Muzammil Tahira	2017	15

Source: Compiled from Giri and Das (2023), Journal of Scientometric Research, *12*(3), 739-754. Their table identified the most highly cited papers of JSR; their analysis reported that the most cited paper had 109 citations.

It should be positioned as evidence of a concentrated yet diversified structure of intellectual influence. The central question is not merely which papers received the most citations, but which ideas became influential, how their influence spread across thematic communities, when these shifts occurred, and what they reveal about the changing intellectual orientation of JSR. This interpretation would align the citation analysis more closely with the journal's expectation for explaining structural transitions and their broader implications, rather than reporting citation rankings alone.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The longitudinal analysis of the Journal of Scientometric Research (JSR) during 2012-2025 reveals that its development cannot be understood simply as an increase in publication volume. Rather, the journal has undergone a progressive reconfiguration of its intellectual, authorship, institutional, geographical, and thematic structures.

Publication growth occurred through distinct phases rather than as a uniform upward trajectory. The marked expansion after 2019 represents a potential inflection point in JSR's development, providing evidence of a transition from a relatively modest publication base towards a substantially expanded research platform. This transition should be interpreted alongside subsequent changes in thematic and network structures.

Collaboration became an established mode of scholarly production, but its structure is more important than its magnitude. Although approximately three-fourths of the publications are multi-authored and the overall Degree of Collaboration is about 0.75, the predominance of two- and three-author papers indicates that collaboration has largely been organised through small and relatively compact research teams rather than extensive large-scale networks.

The journal exhibits a recognizable core-periphery authorship structure. A relatively small group of prolific researchers accounts for a substantial share of the journal's output. However, productivity alone does not establish intellectual centrality. The longitudinal positioning of these authors, their thematic affiliations, and their network connections are critical for determining whether they function as knowledge anchors, thematic specialists, or bridges between research communities.

Institutional participation is strongly concentrated but not geographically closed. CSIR-NISTADS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and other Indian institutions form an important institutional core, while institutions from Brazil, the United States, and other countries provide external connections. This indicates an India-centred institutional structure with an emerging international periphery, rather than a uniformly distributed global research network.

The geographical structure of JSR is characterised by an asymmetry between productivity and connectivity. India contributes the largest volume of publications, whereas countries such as the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia display considerably higher proportions of internationally collaborative output. Thus, high publication productivity does not necessarily correspond to high international network integration.

The journal's intellectual influence is concentrated around a limited number of highly visible contributions but extends across multiple thematic domains. The highly cited literature encompasses bibliometric methodology, research evaluation, altmetrics, scholarly communication, science mapping, research performance, and related areas. The exceptional citation performance of Dervis (2020) demonstrates the capacity of methodological and software-oriented contributions to achieve influence beyond a narrowly defined scientometric community.

The thematic landscape has progressively diversified. The journal's intellectual profile extends beyond conventional bibliometric and scientometric analysis towards research evaluation, altmetrics, science mapping, scholarly communication, computational methods, and other emerging areas. This suggests a transition from a relatively concentrated knowledge base towards a more differentiated thematic structure.

The emerging thematic structure indicates changing relationships between established and newer research domains. The important analytical issue is not simply the appearance of new keywords but whether emerging themes have moved from peripheral positions towards the intellectual centre and whether they have connected previously separated thematic communities. This provides evidence for examining JSR through a longitudinal centre-periphery perspective.

The development of JSR appears to involve both continuity and reconfiguration. Established areas of scientometrics and bibliometrics continue to provide the intellectual foundation of the journal, while newer methodological and application-oriented domains have progressively expanded the research frontier. The journal therefore appears to have evolved through layering and integration of new themes rather than complete displacement of its traditional knowledge base.

The overall structure suggests that JSR occupies a distinctive position at the intersection of methodological innovation, research measurement, and scholarly communication. Its Indian research base provides a strong production centre, while international contributors and emerging thematic areas extend its intellectual boundaries. The journal's development is therefore better characterised as expansion accompanied by structural diversification, rather than growth in output alone.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that the development of the Journal of Scientometric Research during 2012-2025 is better understood as a process of intellectual and structural reconfiguration rather than simply increasing publication productivity. The journal has expanded its publication base while simultaneously developing a distinctive configuration of authorship, institutional participation, geographical engagement, thematic specialisation, and citation influence.

The longitudinal evidence points to important phases of transformation, particularly around the period of increased publication activity after 2019. At the same time, the persistence of Indian authors and institutions within the journal's core indicates considerable structural continuity. The resulting configuration is therefore neither completely centralised nor fully internationalised: it combines a strong India-based production centre with a dispersed international network of contributors. Similarly, collaboration is widespread but predominantly organised through relatively small author teams, suggesting that the expansion of collaborative scholarship has not necessarily produced a single highly integrated global research network.

The thematic and citation patterns further indicate that JSR has retained its traditional foundations in bibliometrics and scientometrics while incorporating newer areas such as research evaluation, altmetrics, science mapping, scholarly communication, and computationally enabled bibliometric research. The emergence of highly influential methodological contributions demonstrates how particular innovations can connect multiple research domains and reshape the journal's intellectual visibility.

The principal implication is that JSR's evolution reflects a process of negotiated expansion between an established intellectual core and an increasingly diversified thematic and geographical periphery. The significance of the journal therefore lies not merely in the quantity of research it publishes, but in its capacity to accommodate emerging methodological approaches, connect different scientometric subfields, and provide a platform through which established and emerging research communities interact.

Accordingly, the journal can be positioned as an India-rooted but increasingly internationally connected intellectual platform within scientometrics, characterised by strong continuity in its core domains alongside gradual thematic and network diversification. Future research should extend this analysis through longitudinal co-word, co-citation, bibliographic-coupling, and multi-level collaboration networks to identify precise inflection points, core-periphery transitions, intellectual brokers, thematic migration, and the mechanisms through which new research communities become integrated into the journal's knowledge structure. Such an approach would provide a deeper explanation of not only what JSR has published, but how its intellectual structure has evolved, why those changes occurred, and what they imply for the future trajectory of scientometric scholarship.

ABBREVIATIONS

JSR: Journal of Scientometric Research; **ISSN:** International Standard Serial Number; **WoS:** Web of Science; **DOI:** Digital Object Identifier; **DC:** Degree of Collaboration; **Ns:** Single-Authored Publications; **Nm:** Multi-Authored Publications; **CSIR-NISTADS:** CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies; **JNU:** Jawaharlal Nehru University; **BHU:** Banaras Hindu University; **PESIT:** PES Institute of Technology; **NPL:** National Physical Laboratory; **SVU:** Sri Venkateshwara University; **UFRJ:** Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; **SIU:** Symbiosis International University; **GIT:** Georgia Institute of Technology; **BARC:** Bhabha Atomic Research Centre; **FC:** Full Counting; **FrC:** Fractional Counting; **BKCI:** Book Citation Index; **SCI:** Science Citation Index; **SSCI:** Social Sciences Citation Index; **A&HCI:** Arts and Humanities Citation Index; **LIS:** Library and Information Science; **JDSICS:** Journal of Data Science, Informetrics, and Citation Studies; **UK:** United Kingdom; **USA:** United States of America.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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