

**A Bibliometric study of the Journal of The National Science  
Foundation of Sri Lanka during 2004-2013**



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## ABSTRACT

Bibliometrics provides a quantitative approach to the description of documents, engaged scholars and their impact. The objective of the study was to bibliometrically explore "The Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka" (JNSF). The analysis was mainly 3 fold as: article, author and citation analysis. Features of article content, characteristics of authors, collaboration patterns and the recognition level of the journal during 10 years (2004-2013) and development between 5 year sub periods were identified.

Out of 355 articles of 12 different types, the majority (94%) were scholarly contributions. On average an issue contained 8.9 articles. Publication output has increased by 5.2% during the latter 5 years. The average length of a scholarly article was 7.76 pages, containing 6.32 illustrations and 20 citations which has increased between 5 year periods.

Nine major subject fields were identified. The majority of the articles were under Biology (27.9%). Subject diversity and interdisciplinary research has increased by 18.92% and 9.92% respectively between 5 year study periods.

Contributions were made by 698 authors. Multi-authorship was dominant with a DC value over 0.8. Most of the authors were affiliated to local universities, followed by local research institutes. Intra university collaboration among 2 authors were prominent. Journal affinity is at an increase. Author productivity tends to decline during the years while the pattern comply with Lotka's law at  $n = 2.49$ .

Authors have primarily used journals, books and proceedings of 6-10 yrs old for their information needs. The Price's index was 19 while the journal and book half life was 11 and 15 years respectively. A majority of 38% of the articles have being cited and the total citations received by JNSF has increased gradually over the years.

The study revealed unique information to the scientific community, policy makers of research and development, scholars of bibliometric studies and librarians.

Keywords : Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Citation analysis, Author analysis, Content analysis