

Deciphering the Editorial Boards of Scopus Indexed LIS Journals: Examining Gender Disparity and Participation

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Abstract: Women have historically been constrained and given fewer chances, despite the fact that men and women share equal interest in academic pursuits due to a variety of societal factors. But as time went on, more and more women began to hold significant roles and places in academics. The study seeks to assess the extent of gender share in editorial and chief editorial positions across Scopus-indexed LIS journals. To examine the prime objective of the study, the study analyses 170 Library and information science journals and their 5585 editorial board members indexed in the Scopus database, focusing on the chief editorial positions to understand and estimate the possible existence of gender disparities. According to the findings, women continue to be underrepresented on editorial boards and in chief editorial board positions of LIS journals when compared to male editorial board members. It was discovered that there are more male editorial board members overall (59.57%) than female editorial board members overall (40.429%), as well as more male chief editors overall (61.032%) than female chief editors overall (38.96%).

Keywords: Librarianship, Women Representation, Gender Study, Scopus, LIS Education, LIS Journals, and Editorial Boards

1. Women in Academia

Without any gender bias, men and women over the world share an interest in academia. Academics do not differentiate on the basis of gender but rather on the basis of quality and potential contributions to society; hence there is no room for any form of gender disparity in academics from an ethical standpoint. Due to sociocultural issues, women have historically been restricted from leaving the house. However, due to societal changes brought on by economic pressure, societal mindset, literacy, and education (Yousaf, Tariq, and Soroya, 2013), women are now more empowered and are leaving their homes to work in a variety of fields where they can earn a living. Women migrated into the mainstream as a result of the socioeconomic transformations that occurred in India, particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries, under the capable leadership of various social reformers (Marsh, 2018). There is still a gender disparity in academics despite the significant social and civil rights progress made by women in the 20th century (Agogino, 2007; Handelsman, 2005; Loannidou, D'Souza, and Macdougall; Loannidou and Rosania, 2015).

Although men have historically predominated in academia, the proportion of women is rising gradually in number which is made possible by the good proportion of women in academia (Arensbergen et al., 2012). Over the past five or six decades, women have achieved considerable advancements in the workplace (Carr et al. 2015; Oltmann 2009; O'Meara 2015; Schwanke 2013; Weiss 2012; Yousaf and Schmiede 2017). Women frequently advance their careers slowly and are less likely to receive training from major research organizations (Holman, Stuart-Fox, and Hauser, 2018; Gallivan et al., 2021). Scientific research brings together scientists from many disciplinary backgrounds, transcending all boundaries. The strategy that is most frequently used in the scientific community, regardless of the individual participant's personality, is collaboration. This merging of many points of view and concepts encourages novelty in science and helps to progress scientific paradigms. But in many scientific fields, there is still a dearth of gender diversity (Toblin, 2017; Franco-Orozco, and Franco-Orozco, 2018).

This study is anticipated to clarify whether the issue of unequal gender representation is prevalent in editorial boards of Scopus-indexed LIS journals and provide insightful details on how such discrepancies are displayed. Additionally, it is hoped that the research's findings will raise awareness of gender disparities and start important debates about them in order to advance greater gender equality in academia and inspire further research and action aimed at promoting a more just and equitable society for everyone.

2. Library and Information Science Discipline in Gender Perspectives

When it comes to the LIS discipline, gender disparities in the library profession and its many roles have always been a problem. Because librarianship was frequently seen as a woman-centric profession, prejudices and other social stereotypes prevented many more men than women from entering positions in the field (Record & Green, 2008). These studies have also noted that men were more likely to seek out and hold top level managerial and administrative positions in libraries than other positions. However, the status of the aforementioned issue and existence of gender stereotypes are not currently fully addressed in a time when gender inclusion is a topic of active discussion. This study aims at evaluating the existence of gender disparity by examining the gender proportion of men and women on the editorial boards of Scopus-indexed LIS journals as the editors are essential in maintaining the journal's high standards and deciding the field's future course. Being an editorial board member is highly regarded in the academic world. Editorial roles are cherished and seen as respectable (Pastor-Cisneros et al. 2022).

And further, as far as India is concerned, since the earliest days of gender discrimination, a developing nation has come a long way. But despite having been there for a long time, gender norms still exist in society and are deeply ingrained in people's thinking. This issue has not yet been overcome. Since it exists everywhere in the world, the problem is not just in India. It is intended that this would lessen over time, but it is nonetheless crucial to constantly monitor this and treat its state. How it manifests in the workplace and in academia must be addressed. Although librarianship is determined to be a profession where women have long held various significant roles (Bertram, 2021), the gender distribution in the LIS discipline as a whole is still not sufficiently addressed, and academic positions and any other related positions other than librarianship of the LIS discipline may have different stories of disparities or facts. Due to different sociological and organizational factors, India's representation of women may differ from that of developed nations (Dasgupta, 1997). Despite the possibility of gender parity being raised by improvements in library education, the distribution of men and women in library professional roles has not yet been thoroughly studied.

3. About Scopus

The Scopus is internationally renowned abstract and citation database of Elsevier's, launched in 2004, feed the information hunger of society consisting of students, researchers, scholars, administrators, educators through its scientific

way of providing information. It covers peer-reviewed journals of the subjects such as health sciences, technology, life sciences, physical sciences and social sciences having smart tools to help researchers to track, analyse and visualise research (<https://www.elsevier.com/en-in/solutions/scopus>) published internationally. And further, as research becomes more global, interdisciplinary and collaborative in nature, the Scopus ensures that significant research from all over the world is not overlooked. In short, the educators and researchers rely upon Scopus database to feed their information hunger.

4. A Look at Previous Studies and Research Gap

The existence and persistence of gender disparities and inequities in executive and administrative roles have long been a matter of discussion. Researchers worldwide have looked at many of the inequalities that currently exist in their respective fields, concentrating on the gender distribution of journal editorial board members and contrasting it with other managerial and higher positions held, notably by women. The underrepresentation of women has been a problem around the world, and efforts have been made to close the gender discrepancies. To get a general understanding of the problem and to comprehend the issue as it relates to the LIS discipline and its journals, the researchers here attempt to examine and review the existing literature on the presented subject. PRSIMA technic was employed for the systematic selection of literature where 33 articles were found to be eligible for the review. The inclusion criteria were based on the language, relevance and the source of the literature. Articles published in other than English language, articles that did not support the objectives and the articles those lacked full-text; were excluded from the review. To determine whether there has been any advancement or change through time, the literature analysis uses a chronological approach that takes into account many fields and the years while analyzing the editorial boards and their gender representations.

Kennedy, Lin, and Dickstein (2001) studied the percentage of women on the editorial boards of 12 major journals. It was found that only 25% of the journals had women editors while only 17% of women constituted the board members. This persisting gender disparity inhibits women's possibility to advance in the profession and attain scholarly recognition. Addis and Villa (2003) examined the presence of men and women on the editorial boards of Italian economics journals published from the year 1970. It found that the editorial board lacked women and the least the women could reach was the editorial secretary position. The study suggests that there exists a gender notion that stereotypes gender roles. A study has shown that with time there is an increase in the number of women on medical journal editorial boards, even

though the majority remain men; carried out by Jagsi, Tarbell, Henault, Chang, Chang, and Hylek (2008). Metz and Harzing (2009) examined women's representation in 15 years of editorial boards in Management. Women are reasonably represented in the journal editorial positions in ranks they hold in the profession. The researchers highlight that inclusion of women could in turn change the vibrancy of the diversity of research topics. Okike, et al., (2012) in their study examine the representation of women authors and editors among physicians in orthopaedic journals. They found that there is a significant increase in the number of female physicians who share as authors and Editors in the selected orthopaedics journals.

Men dominate the editorial boards of leading LIS journals and also in terms of publication and citation is mostly from the USA, according to Willett (2013). In comparison with the non-editorial members of these journals, it was also found that men typically dominate the board. In their study Mauleón, Hillán, Moreno, Gómez, and Bordons (2013) found that female presence is lower than males in authorship, membership in Spanish journal editorial boards, and editorship. The presence of female authors is slightly lower than in the Spanish Higher Education sector. The gender gap has been overcome when it comes to authorship while on the editorial board, but the transition is slow. Cho, et al. (2014) selected 10 high-profile environmental biology journals, considering the period 1985-2013. The general distribution of females is around 20% which has rarely exceeded in the selected period. This study suggests that journals should strive for gender parity when it comes to editorial boards.

Ioannidou and Rosania (2015) extracted data from 69 major dental journals and found that the representation of women in editorial and advisory board positions is proportional to the women in academia. However, the women's representation on the board is only 14.8%. Furthermore, women in editor-in-chief positions constituted only 2.5% and 16.1% of associate editors-in-chief. The proportion of women on the editorial boards of journals in the category of mathematical sciences has been studied by Topaz and Sen (2016). Out of 13067 editorships, only 8.9% of women are found to hold the position although 15% of female professors occupy faculty positions in the same discipline. In the study of Bakht, Arshad, and Zaidi (2017), only 17% of women's representation was found in the editorial boards of 79 medical and dental journals. Contributing factors such as stereotypes, traditional roles, lack of support, hostile working environment, etc. are highlighted. And they mention that women can be potential game changers once they get an equal share in the field of editing. Gollins, Shipman, and Murrel (2017) conducted a study on the gender distribution of the editor-in-chief positions of 25 dermatology journals

and in all the 25 existing journals, only 26 were found to be female editors-in-chief and when it is compared to the males in the position. This study demands further research on this for a detailed evaluation of the issue so that it can be used to promote more women to the positions. Piper, Scheel, Lee, and Forman (2018) found that the proportion of women on medical journals' editorial boards increased from 1.4% to 18.8% during the period 1973-2007, but stayed below the proportion of the female-first authors and female faculty in radiology. During the selected period there was no female editor in chief in any of the selected journals.

In a study conducted by Gullivan, Arshad, Skinner, Burkee, and Young (2021), only 20.2% of women were identified among the editorial board positions at the top general surgery journals. Only 11 percent constituted editor-in-chief positions, 32% in deputy editor positions, and 19.1% were in general editorial positions. A study by Pastor-Cisneros, Castro, Adsuar-Sala, and Bautista-Bárcena (2022) has found that 23% of the total editor ships are held by women, and women who held the editor in chief position constitute only 10%. The study finds a positive correlation between women as editors in chiefs with women being in editorial board positions. No significant correlation was found between the impact factor of the journals and women's proportion on editorial boards. The percentage of women in the scientific literature in Germany has stagnated at around 30%, according to a study by Zehetbauer, Haugwitz, and Seifert (2021). A substantial increase has been found in the editorial board and advisory editors since 2016 as a result of appointments by the editor-in-chief. A study by Rodríguez-Faneca, Maz-Machado, Gutiérrez-Rubio, and Pedrosa-Jesús (2022) has found that the representation of men and women in language and linguistic journals are identical, with no visible biases in terms of gender.

Dasgupta (1997) analysed the status of women in librarianship under the stereotype of the profession being female-oriented. They mention the difference in the situation in India in comparison to developed countries. And how likely the notion is to be changed in the forthcoming years as the views and perceptions are changing. Record and Green (2008) discuss the gender issues and trends in library management from the male point of view where they mention that men are under-represented in the library profession because they are considered effeminate, socially inept, and unambitious. There is a need to nullify all stereotypes for the upcoming generations of librarianship and let men occupy more roles in all levels of library profession especially the non-administrative positions. In their study Golub (2010) explain that in the 20th century, librarianship was a profession where females occupied only the lower serving positions while top-level management positions were dominated by men. This study also notices a possible emerging pattern of dual careers based

on gender with men occupying technically inclined positions and women managerial positions. Mars (2018) examined the gender demographics and perception in the librarianship profession over years and found that women were not given leadership positions and it ultimately caused various wage injustices and biases within the profession. And the first time in forever women started occupying higher leadership positions in the 21st century. Bladek (2019) reviewed literature published from 1974 to 2018 to study the role of women in academic library positions. Results reveal that women have not yet achieved proportional representation in senior management roles. The more women come forth to senior academic managerial positions in academic libraries, the more women get inspired to attain more important roles in librarianship. Rutledge (2020) surveyed women librarians working in academic libraries to understand the perceptions and barriers they face in pursuing and persisting the management positions. It found that gendered behavioral expectations, workplace structure tailored to suit men, political difficulties, work-life balance, etc. act as inhibiting factors for women from striving in the positions. A study by Olanrewaju (2020) evaluates the 21st-century female librarians and their leadership impacts based on the tertiary institutions in Ogun, Nigeria. They studied 19 institutions of the Ogun State along with a detailed search in the database. The results show that women's representation in librarianship, leadership, and academia is proliferating.

A study by Bilen-Green, Froelich, and Jacobson (2008) shows that the representation of women in senior leadership positions at universities and professional institutions is encouraging, although it is not even closer to the share of men holding the positions. Women hold 14% of presidential positions and 25% of provost and dean's roles at doctoral-granting institutions in the US. Bell (2013) in their articles mentions how sexes can learn from each other and acquire qualities posed by one another. They mention leadership qualities such as patience, expressiveness, intuition, flexibility, empathy, etc. are traits posed by women rather than men and there are possible chances of women leadership being merged as a preferred style. Yousaf and Schmiede (2017) explore the barriers to women achieving academic excellence and positions of power. Regardless of the qualifications they hold, cultural stereotypes play a sound role in restricting women reach powerful positions. How sexual harassment in the workspaces can also be a factor is as well addressed here. Bhandari (2017) has highlighted the global initiatives to fill the gaps where women are often underrepresented could in turn result in global academic mobility for women going abroad and excelling in careers and also how funding can significantly help women advance in higher education of academia.

Campos-García and Zúñiga-Vicente, (2019) have found that the presence of women in managerial and non-managerial positions positively impacts the overall performance of an organization. The researchers analysed how the women in these management positions exert mediator roles significantly impacting the staff team and the school performance. Das, Dongre, and Singhal, (2021) in their study explore the representation of women in Indian economics academia. There is a share of 29.6% of teaching faculties holding Ph.D. degrees in India. In conference publications, there is 29% of female authorship whereas in peer-reviewed journals it is just 26.4%. The study by Akhtar and Soroya (2021) reveals that there are two distinct factors that act as inhibitors to women achieving professional librarianship positions. Extrinsic factors include; organizational structure, policies, stereotypes, social beliefs, discrimination, etc., and intrinsic factors such as lack of confidence, choices in marriage, children, career breaks, etc which negatively affect women's career development. Despite significant progress in the number of women coming into academics, the proportion of women in research and innovation is still under-represented. It also mentioned the initiatives put forward by the European Commission in promoting inclusive societies. The report was published by European Commission (Gender gap at education level is shrinking) on Wednesday. A study by Davis, et al. (2022) proposed a framework in the context of barriers raised by the Covid-19 pandemic; how it has adversely affected women in research careers. The study is focused on the biomedical discipline and they put forward a potential action framework with interventions and innovative measures to reduce women's attrition in academia.

The results show that there is a significant gender gap and that women are underrepresented compared to men on editorial boards and in other important high-ranking positions. The bulk of studies support the findings about disparities, while a small number of studies stand out because of conflicting findings. Although there has only been a little research on the editorial boards of LIS journals, there hasn't been a recent study reported on this topic that has been indexed in SCOPUS.

5. The Study Objectives and the Followed Methods

This study aims to decipher editorial boards including advisory and scientific boards in SCOPUS Indexed Library and Information Science journals in gender perspectives. The prime objective of this study is to identify possible gender disparities, if any, in these boards. The study methods consist of the following different steps such as:

- a) Accessing the Scopus database using the website <https://www.scopus.com/> and preparation of the List of Journals in LIS discipline during August, 2023;
- b) Filtering out the discontinued journals from the list and preparing the final list of remaining continued journals;
- c) Again, preparing the final list of journals to be undertaken for study after filtering out the journals published in languages other than English;
- d) Random cross-check of the Journal's list from Scopus website again for removal of any chance of discrepancy and arranging the final list of journals in alphabetical order;
- e) The total number of members (counted regardless of whether they served on more than one committee) of the Editorial and Advisory/Scientific Boards for each of the journals, as well as the gender of each board member and their position on the board, were the factors that were taken into account;
- f) The webpages of each journal were thereafter visited in order to obtain details about its committees, members, and gender. An adhoc database was created with this data;
- g) The gender was determined by giving the first name of each member using <https://genderize.io/>. In instances where the gender was obvious due to their given names being written in Indian (names like Rohit, Priya, etc.), the gender was immediately assigned in the database;
- h) In other instances, names can be ambiguous, denoting either a man or a girl, or they might be incomplete. Consequently, a second search was carried out within the webpage of the individual's home institution in order to be able to properly assign a gender. This search was done to look up both their pronoun use and biographies; and
- i) An Excel Visual Basic Application script was then created to assign a gender to each individual. In a manner similar to Frietsch et al. (2009) and Rodríguez-Faneca et al. (2022), this programme looked for their first name in a database of names with their matching genders. With the exception of a few inaccuracies that were later fixed, this technique correctly assigned the gender of each person in 90 percentages of the cases, matching the assignments performed manually.

6. Results

The data presented in table 1 indicates the count and percentages of Scopus indexed LIS journal editorial board members in terms of their roles and gender. For the analysis 170 Library and information science journals indexed

in Scopus were found to be eligible. A total number of 5585 editorial board members identified. The test of accuracy counts by using the website, <https://genderize.io/> in the identification of the gender from the first name was conducted and it was observed that the majority of the results were above the range of 90% probability, which indicates higher level of accuracy.

The gender analysis reveals that there is a potential disparity in the representation of gender as the share of male editorial board members (59.57%) is found to be greater than that of female editorial board members (40.429%). In figure 1, the distribution of gender in the editorial board of LIS journals is illustrated.

Table 1 : Distribution of gender in journal editorial board

Gender	Men	Percentage	Women	Percentage	Total
Chief Editors	130	61.032	83	38.96	213
Editorial Board	3197	59.512	2175	40.48	5372
Total	3327	59.57	2258	40.429	5585

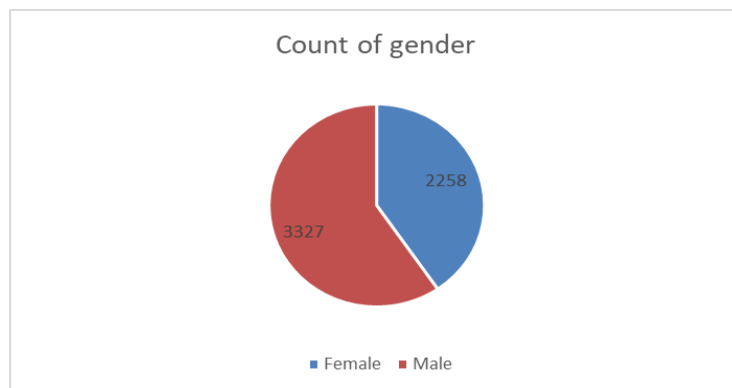


Figure 1: Count of Editorial Member's Gender

From the analysis, it can be seen that most numbers of the editorial members are from the USA, in both the gender categories; male and female. There are 1102 male editorial board members and 1066 female editorial board members from the USA followed by the UK, where there are 415 male and 268 female editorial board members (Figure 2).

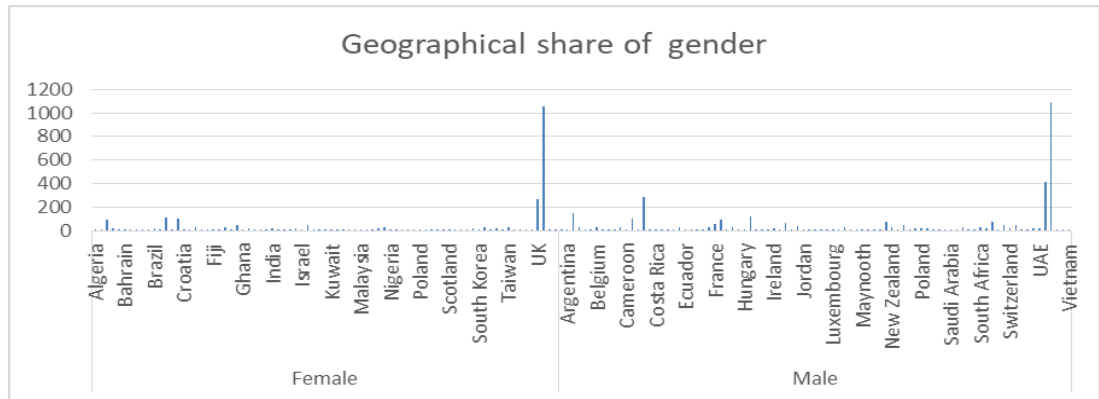


Figure 2: Geographical Gender Distribution

Amongst 170 journals found eligible for the study; 97 journals had only male chief editors and 51 journals had only female chief editors. 22 journals had both male and female chief editors (Figure 3).

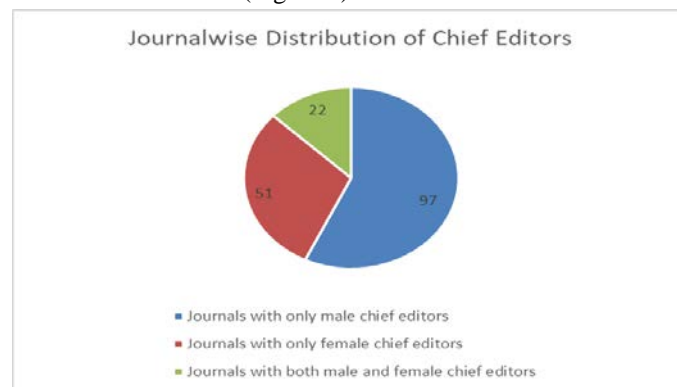


Figure 3: Journal-wise Gender Distribution

Out of 5585 editorial members, only 3.81% occupied chief editorial positions. Of the total chief editors, 61.032% are males that exceed the share of female chief editors (38.96%) (Figure 4).

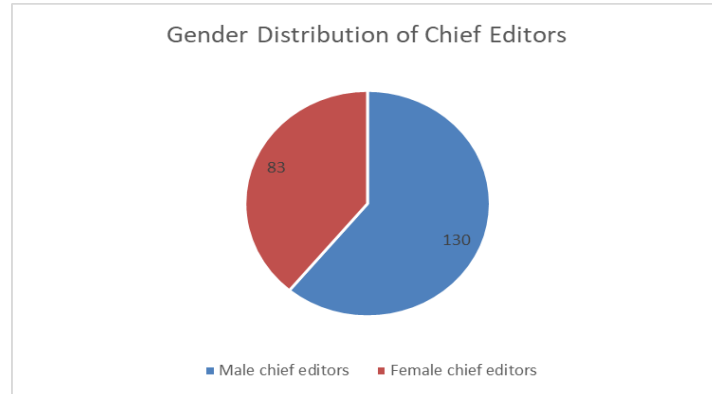


Figure 4: Gender Distribution of Chief Editors

7. Discussion

The examination of library and information science journals indexed in Scopus reveals that there are noticeable inequalities in the participation of women on editorial boards. From the analysis of 170 journals, 5585 editorial board members were identified and charted with their affiliation, gender and respected locations. Results revealed that there is an existing male predominance in the selected journals' editorial board as the share of distribution of males (59.57%) is found to be more than share of female members in the editorial board (40.429%). The results of this study agree with many other studies from the other disciplines regarding general under-representation of women in editorial boards of their journals such as orthopaedics, dermatology, management etc. (Kennedy, Lin, & Dickstein, 2001; Addis & Villa, 2003; Metz & Harzing, 2009; Willet, 2013). The geographical analysis show that majority of editorial members are from USA, followed by UK; regardless of the gender categories. There are 1102 male editorial board members and 1066 female editorial board members from the USA followed by the UK, where there are 415 male and 268 female editorial board members. Regarding the possible causes of larger share of members from these countries in comparison to other countries, are not clear. The gender distribution in chief-editorial positions of the selected journals were also found to have gender disparities the way studies of Ioannidou and Rosania (2015); Gollins, Shipman, and Murrel (2017); Bakht, Arshad, and Zaidi (2017) suggest; as chief editorial positions are held by just 3.81% of the editorial staff, of which 2.327% of men and 1.486% of women, of which, the share of male chief- editors (61.032%) is found to be greater than that of female chief editors (38.96%). Amongst 170 journals analysed, 97 journals had only male chief editors and 51 journals had

only female chief editors while only 22 journals had both male and female chief editors.

There are no significant studies in LIS discipline to substantiate or to compare the existing gender disparities in editorial positions and its potential causes. But the literature analysis points at the findings of the related studies done by Yousaf and Schmiede (2017); Akhtar and Soroya (2021); Davis et.al (2022) where the root causes of the gender disparities are found to be lying with various societal causes such as patriarchy, cultural stereotypes, sexual abuse etc. which restricts and limits women from occupying prominent positions such as presidential roles in editorial boards. Although some of the studies reveal how with time more women started coming forward and started occupying leadership roles and the need of global initiative to help women break the barriers and fill the existing gender gaps (Bilen-Green, Froelich, & Jacobson, 2008; Bell, 2013; Bhandari, 2017). Though various disciplines and journals, women started occupying editorial positions in greater share and the gender based disparities started to fade (Jagsi, Tarbell, Henault, Chang, Chang, & Hylek, 2008; Okike, et al., 2012; Piper, Scheel, Lee, & Forman, 2018) from this study it has been understood that in LIS journals there is an existing gender gap that needs to be filled. A number of studies indicate a positive correlation between women in chief editorial positions and women in editorial board (Zehetbauer, Haugwitz, and Seifert, 2021; Pastor-Cisneros, Castro, Adsuar-Sala, and Bautista-Bárcena, 2022) and hence the importance of having more share of females in chief editorial positions can significantly impact and help increase the share of women in the editorial board can be understood.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

The primary objective of this study was to critically examine and underscore the persistent gender disparity on editorial boards of library and information science (LIS) publications indexed in Scopus. Despite the progress made in various fields toward gender equality, our analysis reveals that women remain significantly underrepresented in these key decision-making roles. This underrepresentation is not merely a reflection of current practices but is deeply rooted in longstanding structural and societal barriers that have historically marginalized women within academic and professional spheres. The review of existing literature provides a comprehensive view of the extensive research conducted on gender disparities across various domains, including LIS. This body of work has consistently highlighted the obstacles that women face in attaining and maintaining prominent positions, such as those on editorial boards and within academia. These barriers are multifaceted, encompassing issues such as gender bias, institutional discrimination, limited access to mentorship and

professional networks, and the often unspoken expectations and pressures associated with traditional gender roles.

Despite gradual improvements over recent decades, the pace of change remains slow, and significant disparities continue to persist. The presence of women on editorial boards is not only a matter of representation but also of equity and justice. Editorial boards hold significant power in shaping the direction of research, influencing the publication process, and determining which voices and perspectives are amplified within the academic community. The underrepresentation of women on these boards therefore has far-reaching implications, not only for gender equity but also for the diversity and inclusiveness of scholarly discourse itself. This study draws critical attention to the existing disparities in gender representation within the editorial boards of Scopus-indexed LIS journals. It serves as a call to action for the academic community to address these imbalances proactively. The persistence of gender disparity on editorial boards is a clear indicator that more concerted efforts are needed to dismantle the systemic barriers that continue to hinder women's full participation in these roles. Furthermore, in today's increasingly complex and diverse society, it is essential to broaden the scope of gender-inclusive research beyond the traditional binary framework. Gender is a dynamic and evolving social construct that encompasses a wide spectrum of identities and experiences. As such, future research must adopt a more nuanced and inclusive approach, recognizing the diversity of gender identities and examining how these intersect with other forms of inequality and discrimination. To achieve a more comprehensive understanding of gender representation in LIS and related fields, future studies should consider expanding both the breadth and depth of data analyzed. This includes examining a wider range of journals, extending the time-period covered, and incorporating qualitative insights that capture the lived experiences of women and other underrepresented groups in academia. Such an approach will not only provide a more accurate picture of gender disparities but also contribute to the development of more effective strategies for promoting gender equity through encouraging journals to adopt transparent editorial appointment processes, implementing gender balance policies for editorial boards, and supporting mentorship programs to promote women's advancement in academic publishing within the academic community.

9. Limitations

The study we conducted had several limitations. One challenge was that many editorial board members were affiliated with multiple journals, so each journal's distribution was independently determined for each member. While this approach may introduce some variability, it is unlikely to have significantly impacted the overall results. Additionally, due to linguistic constraints, we excluded certain journals and specific subfields within some journals, which may have limited the scope of our analysis. Another significant limitation was the inability to assess the gender distribution of editorial members for some journals due to incomplete editorial board information and

ambiguity regarding the titles of positions, making it difficult to accurately determine rank within the editorial hierarchy. In several cases, the chief editorial positions were not disclosed, further complicating our analysis.

The most notable constraint of our study was the reliance on gender data analysis methods that are confined to a binary categorization of gender. This limitation is particularly significant in light of contemporary discussions about pronouns and gender identities, which have become crucial topics in public discourse. Furthermore, the gender detection methods used in the database searches had a lower level of accuracy when applied to names of Asian origin, potentially affecting the precision of our analysis. Our study was also restricted to library and information science publications indexed in Scopus. Expanding this analysis to include other major databases and resources could provide a more comprehensive understanding of gender representation in editorial boards. Additionally, the study was based on publicly accessible data up to 2023, and extending the analysis to include data from subsequent months could offer more current insights.

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11. Declaration of Interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest in the study.

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