

# Open Access to Sri Lankan Scholarly Publications: a web survey of Sri Lankan Journals Online and e-Repositories

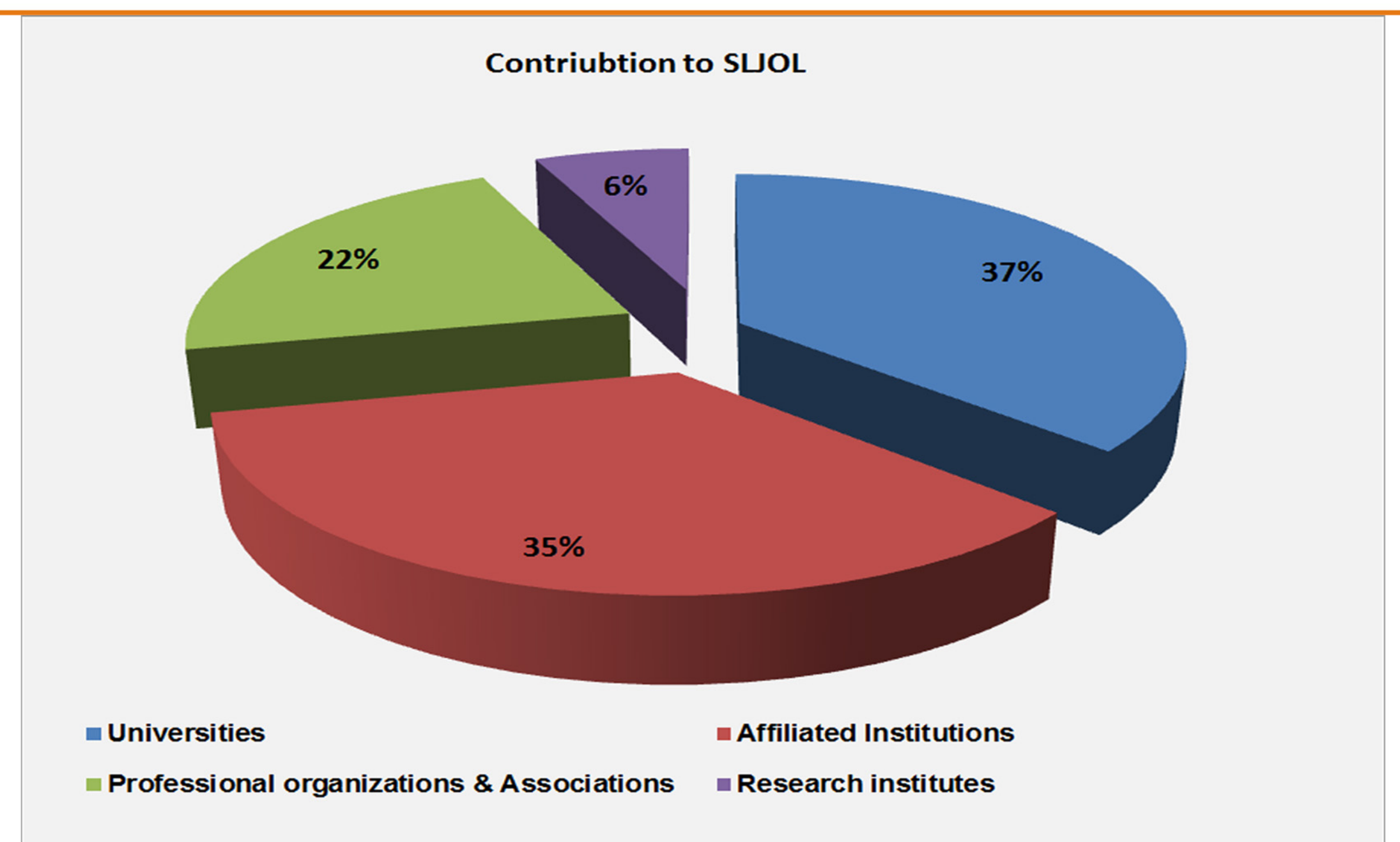
Thankavadivel Ramanan  
Muthurajah Norman Ravikumar  
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

## Introduction

Scholarly publication has still been a challenge to young academics that are yearning for sharing their works in high-impact Journals. One of the challenges to access to reputed databases is their high subscription rates. Next discouraging factor is that many of these journals charge article processing fees at varying amounts, which are unaffordable to authors with inadequate income background. In general, universities/institutions do not support to pay the publications fees. Thirdly, not every author is better at his/her first attempt to get their works accepted since they need training and experience to master the academic writing. Although the authors find ways to publish their research in renowned journals, their universities are finding it difficult to subscribe to those expensive information resources. Therefore, open access has become not only an advantage to academic institutions that are deprived of adequate budgetary allocations for subscriptions but also a relief to novice academic writers. In this line, Sri Lankan Journals Online (SLJOL) and the e-repositories of universities in the country are making scholarly publications available as open access.

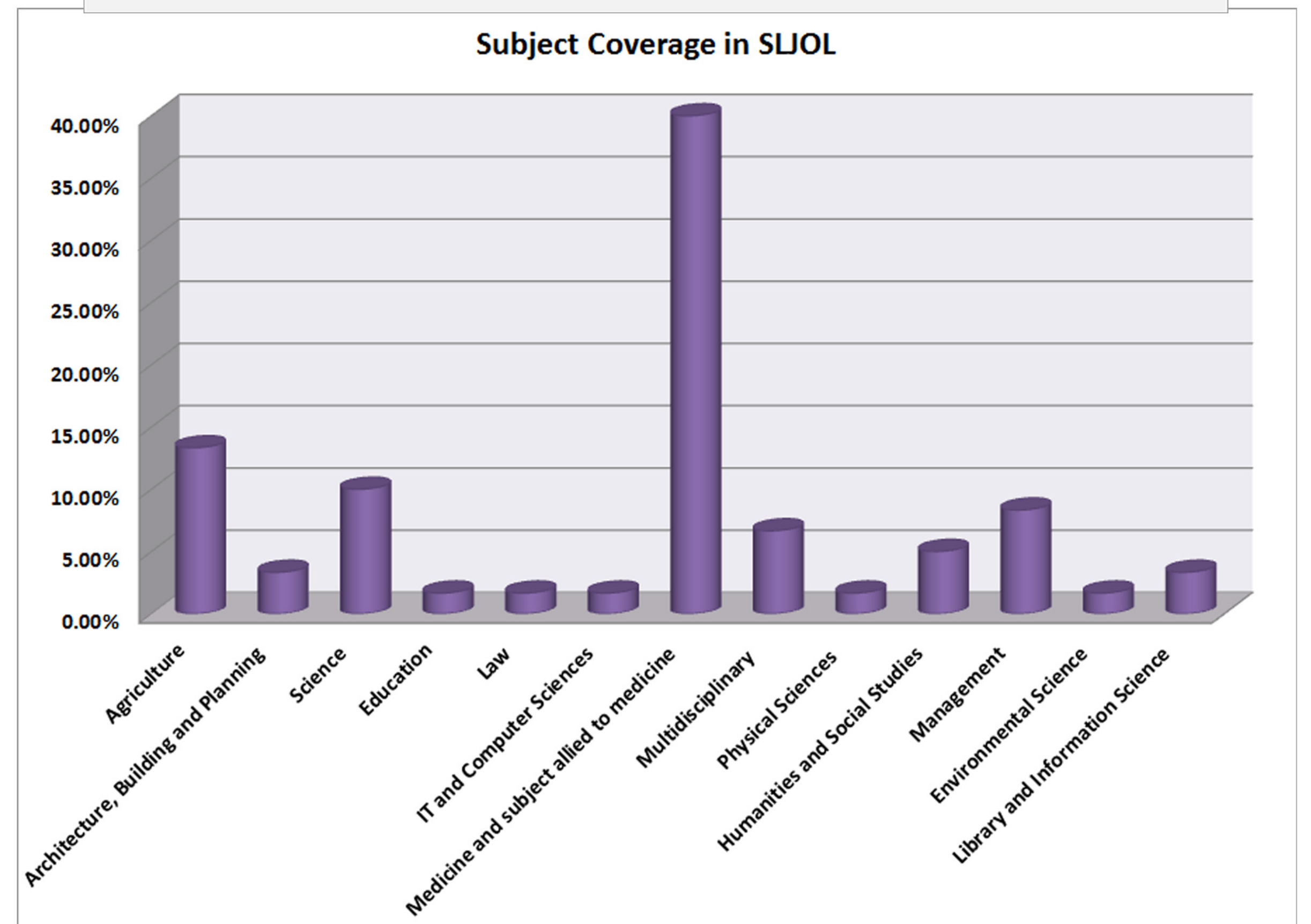
## SLJOL

SLJOL is a product of the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) under the joint project of Journals Online. With its inception in August 2008, SLJOL sets its objectives to widen the access to and visibility of research published in Sri Lanka. Thus, SLJOL provides avenue for local authors to have a global audience. It is managed by the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (NSF). Presently, SLJOL provides open access to 61 local journals and 6366 articles.



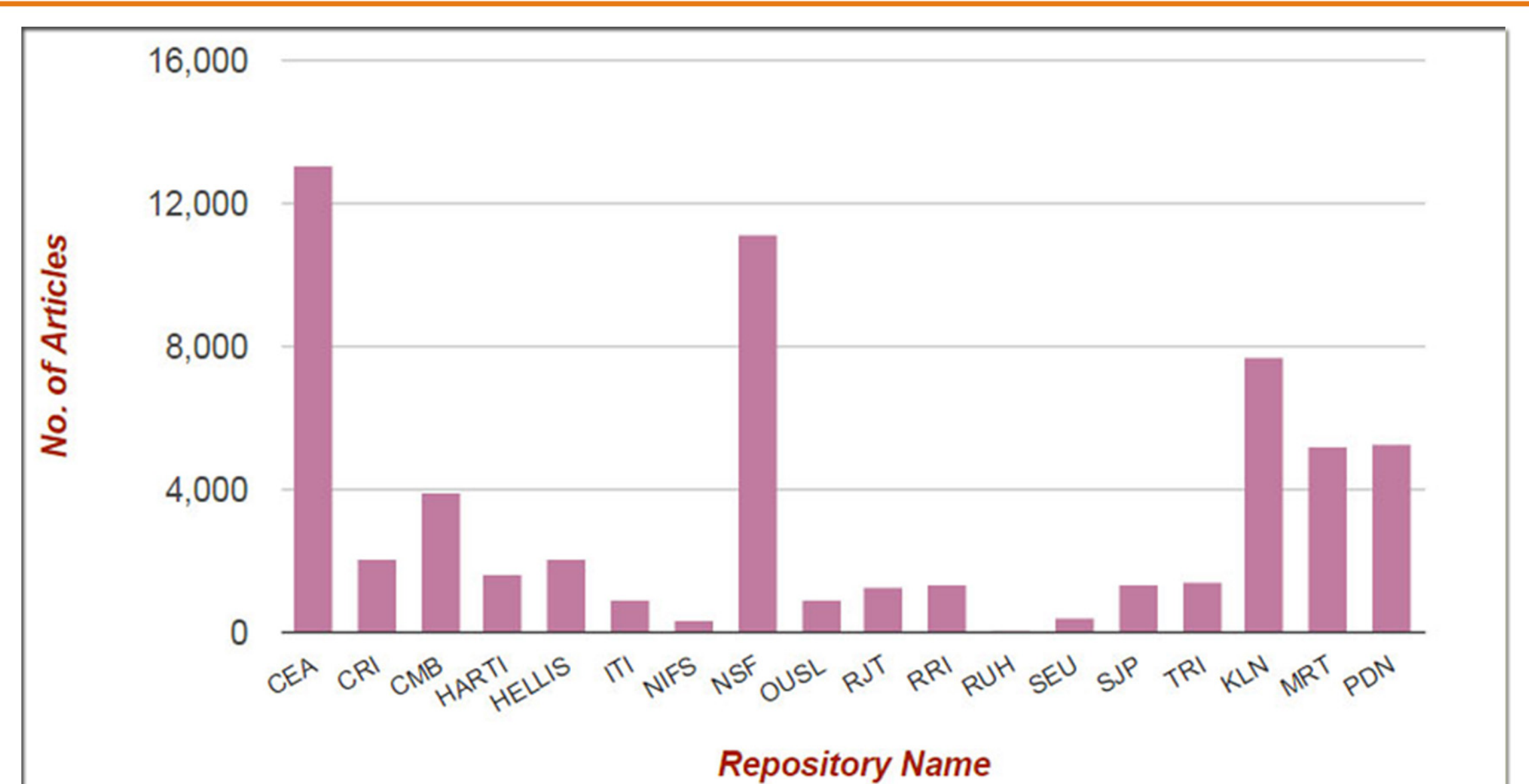
## E- Repositories

Considering electronic repositories, most of the universities, research institutes and other academic societies in Sri Lanka have their own digital collections that are freely accessible. Currently, there are 17 digital repositories are listed on Directory of Sri Lankan Institutional Repositories, which currently contains 57,727 articles in various disciplines. The National Science Foundation (NSF) provides national e-repository, which covers full text scholarly literature of Sri Lankan origin. Research articles and reports, theses and dissertation, conference proceedings, abstracts of research sessions, and articles authored by academics and researchers are stored on these repositories.



## Suggestions

- Need to promise Open Review
- Open Anti-Plagiarism software
- Empowering e-repositories with OCR tools
- Embedding translation (trilingual) facilities



Courtesy: <http://dl.nsf.ac.lk/DIRSLIR/Statistics.html>