

DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY AMONG UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS IN DODAMARG

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Abstract

Digital literacy is an important skill required for everyone living in the today's 21st century. The information and communication technology has influence on the social and economic life of academicians. To retrieve the required information in right time the person should be digitally literate. This research paper focuses on the digital information literacy skills among the undergraduate students of arts and commerce faculties in Laxmibai Sitaram Halbe College, Dodamarg. The study also focuses on awareness of digital resources, purpose of using digital resources, frequency of using digital resources etc. the researcher has applied survey method and data was collected using online google quiz. It is also found that large number of students (61.3%) use internet for the reading e-newspapers and only 12.9% of students are using internet for browsing e-books. It was also found that most of the respondent (98.4%) students are aware of only google search engine.

Index Terms

Information literacy; e-information literacy; digital information literacy; undergraduate students; online resources

Introduction

In the 21st century, to cope with the information explosion, digital information literacy has become important for any reader. Digital Information Literacy has got prominence due to the complexity and volume of information available in digital format. In the postmodern era of scientific development, most of the information is available in digital format and thus, the researcher believes, this technological advancement has generated as well as accelerated the need for digital information literacy skills. It is evident to see that today information in digital format is rapidly taking place of printed books.

Digital information literacy skills have been found very crucial in the 21 century. American Library Association has been defined digital literacy as "the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills."

Paul Gilster (1997) defines digital literacy as, "the ability to understand and use information in multiple formats from a wide range of sources when it is presented via computers".

Statement of the Problem

Digital information literacy skill is very important to get success in an academic environment. The purpose of an information literacy program is to educate the students to use the available information for their study. It is expected that students should make maximum utilization of e resources made available in the library as well as on the internet for their study. But it has been observed that most of the students in the college seem to have inadequate e-information literacy skills. This research study, therefore, tends to ascertain e-information literacy skills among the students of Laxmibai Sitaram Halbe College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Dodamarg

Objectives

The main objective of the study is to find out digital information literacy skills among the students of Laxmibai Sitaram Halbe College, Dodamarg. The objectives of the research are as following

- To find out digital information literacy skills among the students of Laxmibai Sitaram Halbe College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Dodamarg.
- To find the frequency of use of digital information resources.
- To find out the purpose of using digital information resources.
- To find out the difficulties that students encounter while accessing the library and its digital resources.

Methodology

The survey method is used for the research study. A structured questionnaire was designed to collect the required data. Randomly 62 students were selected and a questionnaire link was sent to the students using Google forms. The collected data was classified, analyzed and tabulated using SPSS software package.

Scope

The study focuses on digital literacy skills among the students. The present research is restricted to the graduate 62 students of Laxmibai Sitaram Halbe College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Dodamarg.

Literature Review

Information literacy and e information literacy have become an integral part of higher education to enhance and for information evaluation.

Golwal (2012) in his book 'E-Information Literacy: A State of Art' specified E-Literacy and Information Literacy are different but mutually compatible concepts with validity within specific contexts and concluded that information literacy is a key component and contributor to lifelong learning.

Halder (2013) in a chapter entitled 'E-literacy and LIS Professionals' focused on the role of LIS professionals in promoting electronic literacy and highlights the role of government bodies, professional organizations/associations, and schools towards enhancement of e-literacy.

Donald Flywell Malanga and Wallace Chigona (2015) conducted research on digital information literacy of undergraduate students. The study revealed that the majority of the first year students do not have an adequate digital information literacy skill due to number of challenges.

Bilawar (2015) carried out the research on 'Awareness of E Information Literacy Amongst University Teachers of Maharashtra. In this study, the researcher suggested that University libraries are as a center of knowledge and these centers need to take initiatives in enhancing e-information literacy skills of teachers in the present digital era as it is found from the study that, many of them still lack certain basic and advanced search skills and awareness and use of certain type of e-information.

M. Anjaiah (2016) conducted research on Digital Information Literacy among the Research Scholars and Students Community at Dravidian University, Kuppam- Andra Pradesh. He stated that digital literacy is distinct from computer literacy and digital skills. Computer literacy preceded digital literacy, and refers to knowledge and skills in using traditional computers with a focus on practical skills in using software application packages. Digital skill is a more contemporary term but is limited to practical abilities in using digital devices.

Awari and Krishnamurthy (2017) conducted research on digital literacy among postgraduate students of university of agricultural sciences, Dharwad. The study shows that the students are using digital devices for entertainment. It is need of the hour to train and make them able to use digital devices for learning resources.

Lokesha, M and Adithya Kumari H. (2019) conducted research on digital information literacy of Mangalore University. The study shows that in modern era digital information literacy is essential in

educational system. Today information is available in digital format. To access this digital information a person should be digitally literate.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Based on the data accumulated from sixty two students and effort has been made to analyze and interpret the data in terms of awareness of digital information literacy skill among the Laxmibai Sitaram Halbe College students.

Table – 1
Gender

Variables	Number	Percentage
Male	17	27.4%
Female	45	72.6%
Transgender	00	00%
Total	62	100%

Online questionnaire was sent to the 62 students of Laxmibai Sitaram Halbe College, Dodamarg using google form. From the above table it is found that majority of the respondents are female students 72.6%. The percentage of male students is 27.4%.

Table - 2
Age

Variables	Number	Percentage
Up to 18	06	9.7%
18-21	52	83.9%
More than 21	04	6.5%
Total	62	100%

The above table shows that the age of students are categorized in three groups. The percentage of respondent students age group up to 18 the percentage is 9.7%. The age group of respondent students has 18 to 21 have 83.9 percentages.

Table - 3
E-mail account

Variables	Number	Percentage
Yes	59	95.2%
No	03	4.8%
Total	62	100%

The above table clearly shows that 95.2% students are having their e-mail account. Only 3 (4.8%) respondent students don't have their e-mail account.

Table - 4
Frequency of use of internet

Frequency	Number	Percentage
Throughout the day	17	27.4%
Once in a day	34	54.8%
Once in a two days	06	9.7%
Once in a week	05	8.1%
Total	62	100%

The above table shows the frequencies of using internet by students. It is found that majority of the respondent 54.8% students use internet once in a day. While 27.4% students use internet throughout the day.

Table - 5
Purpose of using internets

Purpose	Number	Percentage
Browsing e-books	08	12.9%
Checking e-mail	05	8.1%
Filling online application	01	1.6%
Downloading syllabus/notes	04	6.4
Viewing movies	01	1.6%
Reading e-newspapers	38	61.3%
Other	05	8.1%
Total	62	100%

The above table shows that the majority of the students 38 (61.3%) visit to the library for reading e-newspapers. However 8 (12.9%) students visit library for browsing e-books. Few students 5(8.1%) visit to the library for checking their e-mail. Some students 4(6.4%) visit to the library for downloading syllabus/notes.

Table - 6
Familiarity with search engines

Search engines	Number	Percentage
Google	61	98.4%
Yahoo	00	00%
Rediff	01	1.6%
Alta Vista	00	00%
Hot Boot	00	00%
Lycos	00	00%
Bing	00	00%
Total	62	100%

The above table clearly shows that the familiarity of students with search engines. It is found that 98.4% of students are familiar with google search engine. While only 1.6% of students are aware of rediff search engine.

Conclusion

The study wanted to examine the present state of digital information literacy skills among the undergraduate students of Laxmibai Sitaram Halbe College, Dodamarg. It is found that majority of the respondent (72.4%) are female students and 27.4% are male students. The research study found that, the majority of the students are able to use computer, and other electronic devices. It is also found that large number of students (61.3%) use internet for the reading e-newspapers and only 12.9% of students are using internet for browsing e-books. It was also found that most of the respondent (98.4%) students are aware of only google search engine. Library should take initiative to conduct digital literacy programme and to make available more number of digital resources in the library. If the proper training is provided to the students, their level of digital literacy will be increased.

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