DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY AMONG SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENTS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS IN BANGALORE UNIVERSITY : A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

In the present transition era of information & communication technology, the students and scholar community are facing difficult to tap the Information resources from the new various kinds of formats and from different databases. The ability to retrieve , evaluate and use of information resources is a prerequisite for lifelong learning, and a basic need for the information era. At the University level, students are expected to contact independent exploration in various disciplines and topics and therefore, irrespective of their subjects of study they need to access information effectively. The rapid development of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) has given rise to the different new jargons like paperless society, Electronic information resources, portal / gateway and global web library. Digital literacy is a more recent concept than information literacy and can interlink to multiple categories of library users in different types of libraries.

KEY WORDS: Literacy, Digital, Information, Resources, University.

INTRODUCTION

Information & communication technology has given new challenges to the libraries and had a great impact on the collection and services of the library. In the present context academic, public and special are not only providing printed resources to their library users apart from this they provide printed, digital & electronic as well as other internet resources like e-books and databases for fulfilling the day to day academic and research requirements of the library stakeholders. The traditional functions of libraries and librarians have undergone radical changes

in the present days ICT (Information and Communication Technology). It has changed the traditional work of library and information centers in delivery of services to the end stakeholders. Significant changes in ICT have forever changed the path of information is gathered, processed, and disseminated. While processing, storage, and retrieval facilities are provided by computers, telecommunications provide the facilities for transfer or communication of data or information.

Now libraries and information centers have incorporated different electronic information resources for its collection developments & services to fulfill the requirements of different types of library stakeholders in a better way. The digital & electronic information literacy is vital component to retrieve electronic resources. The study explores the use and problems faced by Research scholars and students of Bangalore University while accessing electronic information resources. Digital Information literacy represents a person's ability to perform tasks effectively in a digital platforms, where "digital" means information represented in numeric form and primarily for use by a computer. The digital information literacy is important component to retrieve electronic resources. The study explores the usage and problems faced by Research scholars and students of Bangalore University while accessing electronic information resources.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find the opinions of social science students and research scholars of Bangalore University, regarding the merits and demerits of ICT tools and web based services.

2. To know the purpose and frequency of use of various electronic and web based services.

3. To understand about the familiarity and usability of Internet resources.

4. To study the level of satisfaction of users about availability and coverage of electronic information resources.

5. To find out the hindrances and problems faced by users while accessing and using digital information.

6. To identify the efficiency of digital literacy in accessing electronic resources.

SCOPE

The study was limited to the social science Post Graduate students and Research Scholars of the Bangalore University.

METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire method was used to collect primary data in this study. For the purpose of this study, primary data, secondary data and information was collected from the library and Internet sources. A structured questionnaire seeking information on computer literacy, digital information competency, training and orientation, the role played by the library, etc., was designed and distributed among social science students and research scholars of Bangalore University. Each and every respondent was personally interviewed to collect the relevant information. Out of 77 respondents, 38 (70.3%) were students and 16 (29.6%) were research scholars, and totally 54 (70.12%) questionnaires received back.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The analysis of data requires a number of closely related operations such as raw data through coding, tabulation and drawing, statistical inferences and summarizing of data to obtain answers to the problem of research. Total 77 questionnaires were distributed and 54 were responded. The investigator took total 54 questionnaires for the analysis. After analyzing the data the investigator arrives at conclusions. The data collected and analyzed with the help of various statistical measures.

Table.1 Distribution of Respondents and Rate of Response

Respondents	Distributed questionnaire	Received questionnaire	Percentage
P.G. Students	53	38	71.69%
Research Scholars	24	16	66.66%
Total	**77**	**54**	**70.12%**

the above table 1 shows that researcher randomly distributed 77 Questionnaires to P.G. Students and Research Scholars of various Social Science Departments of Bangalore University. In this 54 (70.12%) questionnaires are received back from the respondents.

**Graph 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender wise.**
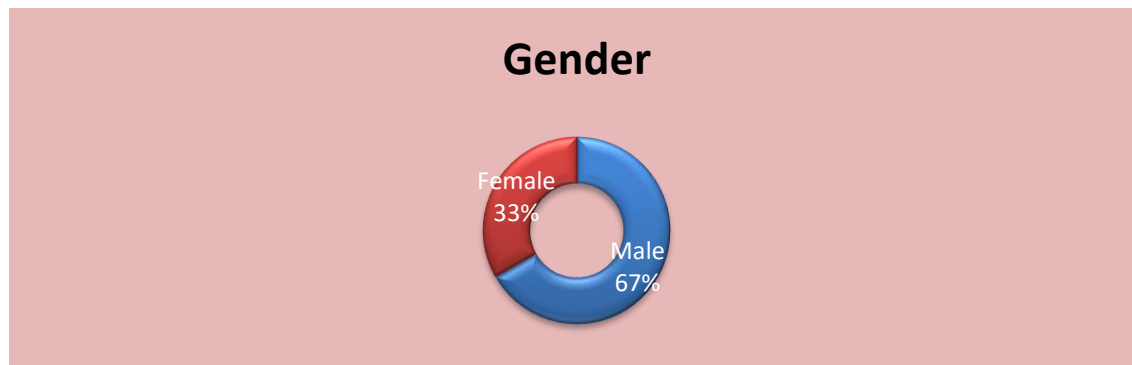
The above graph indicate that Total number of respondents was 54 and out of which 66.6% were Male (36 respondents) and 33.3% were Female (18 respondents).Here male respondents more while compare to female respondents.

Table 2: Purpose of using E-resources.

Sl. No	Purpose	Response	Percentage
1.	To Update Knowledge	37	68.51%
2.	For Study	18	33.33%
3.	To Prepare Assignments	9	16.66%
4.	For Career Development	9	16.66%
5.	Above all	3	5.55%

The above table 2 indicates that respondents are accessing   e-resources for various purposes, majority of respondents are accessing it to update knowledge 37 (68.51%),for study purpose 18 (33.33%) and for preparing assignments 9 (16.66%), for Above all only 3 (5.55%) respondents are accessing e-resources.

Graph 2 :Types of E-resources
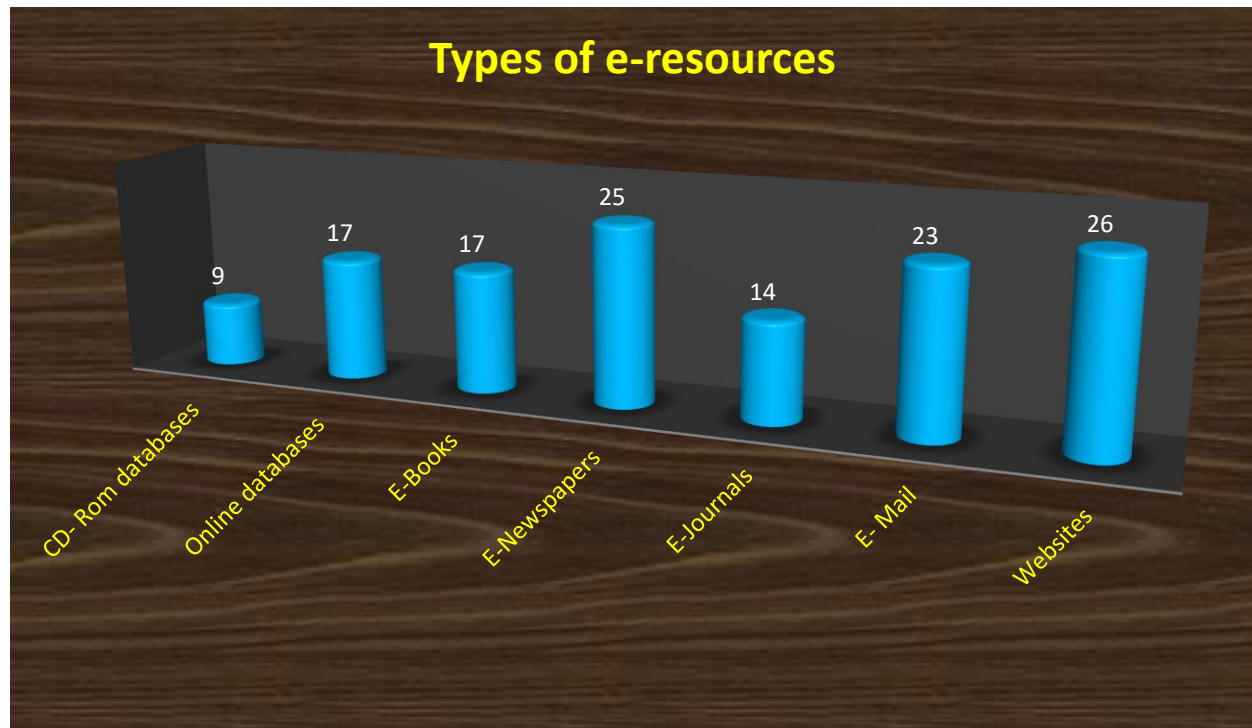
The multiple answer graph indicates that most of the respondents prefer websites (48.14%), e-newspapers (46.29), e-mail (42.59%), online databases (31.48%) and e-books (31.48%), less preference were given to CD-ROM (16.66%) and E-journals (25.92%).

Table 3: Importance of library Digital/E - Resources

Sl. No.	Perception	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Essential	9	16.66%
2.	Very important	31	57.40%
3.	Important	10	18.51%
4.	Somewhat important	3	5.55%
5.	Not important	1	1.85%

The above table depicts that 57.40% of the respondents think library resources are very important for their academic studies. 18.51% think that is important , and 16.66% think that is Essential , while least percent of respondents think that it is not important for their academic studies.

Table 4: Problems in Using Internet

Difficulties	Respondents			Percentage		
	Most satisfied	Satisfied	Poor	Most satisfied	Satisfied	Poor
Obtaining connection	23	25	6	42.59%	46.29%	11.11%
Web pages loading	18	28	8	33.33%	51.85%	14.81%
Browsing	16	25	13	29.62%	46.29%	24.07%
Downloading	13	22	17	24.07%	40.74%	31.48%
Slow Accessibility	14	22	19	25.92%	40.74%	35.18%

The above table shows that problem faced by respondents when using Internet. Many of them face problems of Downloading and slow accessibility, based on this table most of the respondents satisfy with internet connectivity. Some of them also face problem of opening of web pages. Totally table shows that the respondents are a little satisfied with the Internet using. Many of the users face problem of lack of training in using Internet.

electronic resources31 (57%), while some of them have given preference to print resources 27 (50%).

FINDINGS

1. 57.40% of the respondents who responded to the survey expressed their need for electronic information in addition to traditional print sources;

2. The Study revealed that majority of respondents is aware about digital literacy.

3. A majority of respondents use electronic information in order to update their knowledge in their respective subject area. More than 60% use of e-resources for the purpose of study, to prepare assignments, and for career development;

4. 48.14% of respondents use Websites for collecting electronic information.

5. The social science students and research scholars find a difficult task to access information from the web.

6. Respondents find a digital literacy an imperative role to play in finding electronic information.

7. Almost all respondents use Google search engine (100%), to search and 14.81% of respondents use yahoo search engine.

8. The major problems faced by social science students and researchers are Lack of awareness, lack of assistance from the resource personals and library professionals in the libraries.

9. Authenticity and reliability are the most important parameters for evaluation of online information.

10. All respondents expressed the wish that the library would take initiative in promoting information literacy at the university level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The University Library should start a digital information literacy programme to educate the students and Research scholars of the social science departments.

2. The social science faculty should teach students and researchers how to search/browse for e-information, evaluate its validity, and to make judicious use of it.

3. The University administration should develop the necessary infrastructure for the promotion of e-information.

4.Faculty should network with those who are already using e-information to make use of their knowledge and skill.

CONCLUSION

There is an educational imbalance between the rapidly developing technologies and information available to the stockholders. Educating people to use information technologies is becoming an essential educational objective for the teaching and research community. Universities should take a lead role in spreading knowledge of digital & Electronic information resources. Through social

science students and researchers in Bangalore University are competent in using latest tools, and web based services such as e-mail, websites and electronic newspapers for personal use, their ability to use them for learning found to be minimal. Hence, there is need to train them in basic and cognitive digital information literacy skills outlined in the model curriculum, so that they can use online information resources such as online databases, e-books, e-journals, digital libraries, and websites more efficiently in their higher learning and research. Further, criteria to be adopted to evaluate online information resources for their quality, reliability and authenticity should be introduced to the social science students and researchers of the Bangalore University to make them digital illiteracies.

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