Information Literacy Competencies among the Undergraduate Students of Shri V. S. Naik College Library, Raver

Dr. B. G. Mukhyadal *

* Librarian
Shri V. S. Naik Arts, Commerce and Science College
Raver, Tq. Raver Dist, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India.

QR Code

Abstract: - *Information competencies are a key factor in lifelong learning. Through the creation, with faculty, of curriculum, integrated programs, librarians should actively contribute to the students' learning processes in their search to enhance or develop the skills, knowledge and values needed to become lifelong learners. This paper discusses the results of a survey on information literacy competencies among the undergraduate students of Shri V. S. Naik college library, Raver, with definitional analysis, objectives, scope and limitations, methodology used for the present study.*

Keywords: Information Literacy, Literacy Skills, Undergraduate Students, Shri V. S. Naik College.

Introduction

Information competencies are a key factor in lifelong learning. They are the first step in achieving educational goals. The development of such competencies should take place throughout citizens' lives, especially during their educational years, where librarians, as a part of the learning community and, as experts in information management, have or should assume the key role of facilitating information literacy.

Definitional Analysis

Literacy: "A person is literate who can, with understanding, both read and write a short simple statement on his everyday life." A person is functionally literate who can engage in all those activities in which literacy is required for effective functioning in his groups and community and also for enabling him to continue to use reading, writing and calculation for his own and the community's development (UNESCO, 1986).

Information Literacy: Information Literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. (American Library Association.

Presidential Committee on Information Literacy, (1989).

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the study are:

1. To know the competency in information literacy among the undergraduate students;

2. To know whether the undergraduate students are applying information-seeking skills in searching the needed information.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to only Science students of Shri V. S. Naik College, Raver Dist. Jalgaon.

Methodology

A detailed and well-structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the Science students of Shri V. S. Naik College, Raver. Out of 90 respondents 86 questionnaires were returned duly filled in by the students. The collected data were classified, analyzed and tabulated by using statistical methods.

Data Analysis

The data were analysed with the help of following parameters:

Demographic information

The questions were asked regarding their gender, the responses received have been presented in Table No.1

Table No. 1: Gender-Wise Distribution of Respondents

Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Male	24	27.91
Female	62	72.09
Total	**86**	**100.00**

Filled in questionnaires were received from 86 students of whom 72.09% were female students and 27.91% male students. It's indicated that female respondents more than male respondents.

Ability to recognize needed Information

The questions were asked about the ability to recognize needed Information, and the responses received have been tabulated in Table No.2

Table No.2: Ability to recognize needed Information

Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Yes	59	68.60
No	27	31.40
Total	**86**	**100.00**

It can be noted from the Table No. 2 that 68.60% respondents have the ability to recognize the needed information, while 31.40% respondents do not have that kind of ability to recognize the needed information, they need training.

Ability to access needed information effectively and efficiently

The questions were asked regarding the places where needed information was searched; the

responses received have been presented in Table No.3

Table No.3: Places Where Needed Information Searched

Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Your College Library	56	65.12
Internet	26	30.23
Other's Library	4	4.65
Total	**86**	**100.00**

It is revealed from the Table No.3 that 65.12% respondents found needed information from his/her college library, 30.23% respondents find needed information from Internet, while only 4.65% of the respondents search information from other's library.

People Contacted to Access the Needed Information

The questions were asked about the people contacted to access the needed information, and the responses received have been tabulated in Table No.4

Table No. 4: People Contacted to Access the Needed Information

Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Library Staff	56	65.12
Faculties	22	25.58
Friends	6	6.98
Self	2	2.33
Total	**86**	**100.00**

From Table 4 it is noted that 65.12% of respondents contact library staff for accessing the required information and 32.56% respondents discuss with their teachers and friends for more clarification. 2.33% of respondents access the required information from self.

Ability to Use Information Technology Applications

The question was asked about the ability to Use Information Technology Applications, and the responses received have been tabulated in table no. 5

Table No. 5: Ability to Use Information Technology Applications Such as Spreadsheet, Databases, Multimedia and Audio-visuals

Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Yes	81	94.19
No	5	5.81
Total	**86**	**100.00**

It can be noted from Table No. 5 that about 94.19% of respondents use the Information Technology applications such as Spreadsheet, Databases, Multimedia and Audio-Visual material, and 5.81% of respondents were not familiar with Information Technology Applications.

How to Find the Most Recent Information

The questions were asked about how they find the recent information when needed, the responses received have been tabulated and presented in Table No. 6

Table No.6: Find Most Recent Information

Sources Used	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Journals	42	48.84
Books	29	33.72
Dictionary	9	10.47
Any Others	6	6.98
Total	**86**	**100.00**

It is observed from the table number 6 that the majority of the respondent 48.84% are find most recent information from Journals/Periodicals/Magazines, while 33.72% of the respondents acquire recent information from Books. Nearly 10.47% of the respondents were getting recent information from Dictionaries and only 6.98% of the respondents from other sources.

Opinion on the Usefulness of Library Orientation/ User Education Programme

The questions were asked about the usefulness of Library orientation/ user education programme, the responses received have been presented and tabulated in Table No.7

Table No. 7: Opinion on User Orientation Programmes

Response	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Useful	68	79.07
Not Useful	18	20.93
Total	**86**	**100.00**

It is reveals from the table no.7 that majority of the students 79.07% believe that user education orientation programmes offered by the library would make it possible for the users to search the needed books and information with ease, while only 20.93% of the respondents were of the opinion that the user education /orientation programme not useful for them.

Most Used Sources to Acquire Information

The questions were asked about which sources do you mostly used for acquiring information, the responses received have been tabulated in Table No. 8

Table No.8: Most Used Sources to Acquire Information

Sources Used	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Print Media	23	26.74
Electronic Media	19	22.09
Both	44	51.16
Total	**86**	**100.00**

It can be noted from the Table no.8 that 26.74% of students are using print media that is books, journals, and so on, and 22.09% of the students are using electronic media that is computers and CDs, while remaining 51.16% respondents were using both print as well as electronic media.

Using Search Engine for Acquiring Required Information

The questions were asked about which search engine you used for acquiring required information, the responses received have been tabulated and presented in Table No.9

It can be noted from the table no. 9 that majority 67.44% of the respondent used Google and 24.42% of the respondents used Yahoo, while 6.98% respondents used Hot-Bot and Dogpile for their searching and only1.16% of the respondents are using other search engines for their daily search.

Table No.9: Usage of search engines

Search Engine	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Google	58	67.44
Yahoo	21	24.42
Hot-Bot	4	4.65
Dogpile	2	2.33
Any others	1	1.16
Total	**86**	**100.00**

Conclusion:

Seventy two point nine percent respondents are female students; 68.60% respondents have the ability to recognize the needed information;

65.12% respondents needed information from his/her college library; 65.12% of respondents contact library staff for accessing the required information; 94.19% of respondents use the Information Technology applications such as Spreadsheet, Databases, Multimedia and Audio Visual material; 48.84% are find most recent information from Journals/Periodicals/Magazines; 79.07% believe that user education orientation programmers offered by the library would make it possible for the users in searching the needed books and information with easiness; 51.16% respondents were using both print as well as electronic media; and majority of the respondents i.e.67.44% of the used only Google search engine.

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