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Information Literacy Skills of Science Faculty Members: A Study of First Grade Colleges Affiliated to University of Mysore, Karnataka

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Abstract **- The present study attempts to examine an Information Literacy Skills of Science Faculty Members of First Grade Colleges affiliated to University of Mysore, Karnataka. A simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample population. A well-structured questionnaire was designed and randomly distributed to 1000 Science Faculty Members for data collection, out of which 826 filled questionnaires was received for data analysis. The major findings of the study revealed that majority of 420(50.8%) Faculty Members generally need advance level of information for research and academic work. Out of 826 faculty members, 817 faculty members are in need of academic information representing 98.9% of the total sample. It is observed that majority of 810(98.1%) faculty members use simple search techniques for information retrieval, they are not very much acquainted with the use of wild card search to retrieve information. About 728(88.1%) faculty members have the knowledge of copyright issues.**
Keywords: **Information Literacy, Information Literacy Skills, Science Faculty Members, Academic Information, Wild Card Search, Copyright**

I. INTRODUCTION

Information literacy skills can generally be derived from the definition by Johnston and Webber (2003) in that information literacy is "the adoption of appropriate behavior to obtain, through whatever channel or medium, information well fitted to information needs, together with critical awareness of the importance of wise and ethical use of information needs in society'. The term information literacy has been defined in many ways with most having their origins from the American Library Association (ALA) (1989) as "the ability to recognize when information is needed and be able to locate and use effectively the needed information". Rapid technological changes, proliferating information resources via different sources and medium, together with the uncertainty in the quality of information pose large challenges to society and add to the information literacy dilemma.

The ability to search, evaluate and use information effectively or more commonly known as information literacy is not a new type of skill that arises as a demand of the information era. The need to master this ability has arisen since many years ago; the only real change is the quantity and format of the information that is provided. This is indicated with the rapid development of technology information that makes capability of IL is more essential. Information Technology (IT) has made information easier to access and use, but the effectiveness and speed of gaining the information can only be achieved if the 'information seeker' is information literate.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Verma and Sudhir Kumar (2018) study 350 faculty members with 35 respondents in each of 10 medical colleges of Madhya Pradesh. The study represents 60% male and 40% female. Out of 60% male respondents are between the ages of group of 31 to 40 years with PG degree. The study analyses shows search pattern and finds that 71% still use manual search very frequently, whereas, computer and internet search is used occasionally by 33% and 52% respondents respectively. The study analyses shows most of the users use sources of information of central library and also finds that few respondents know about their sources of information and where to find those sources and also the study finds that telemedicine is seldomnly used.

Aftab and Singh (2017) study reports the result of a survey conducted at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh and Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI), Delhi to measure the information literacy skills of social science research scholars. The major findings of the study revealed that majority of the research scholars of both the universities require information for their research work and also they require updating subject knowledge. It is also found that there is a lack of awareness among the research scholars regarding the use of encyclopedia and bibliography. They are not very much acquainted with the use of Boolean operators and truncation for efficient information retrieval. Most of the research scholars have knowledge of fair use and plagiarism. Majority of the research scholars opined that information literacy programs are beneficial for them. Highest number of research scholars required training to use electronic resources, search strategies use of computer/ internet. Thirmagal and Mani (2016) focused on information literacy skills among faculty members of engineering colleges in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu. For the collection of data structured questionnaire was prepared. 100 questionnaires were distributed to the faculty members on first come first get basis. The researcher was able to get back only 85 duly filled in questionnaires. Out of 85, 50

(58.8%) faculty members are male, remaining 35(41.2%) faculty members are female. All the faculty members responded to the study 85 (100%) are in need of information. Out of that 80 (94.11%) faculty members need academic information Majority of 82 (96.47%) faculty members find needed information in internet/web. 82(96.47%) faculty members have the knowledge of different section of books.

Only 59(69.41%) faculty members use keyword and Boolean operators to search the required information in search strategy. 55 faculty members are aware of how to use copyright bound material. About 58(68.23%) faculty members have the knowledge of plagiarism. 32(37.64%) faculty members face the problem of lack of knowledge about the arrangements of books on shelves. 83(97.64%) faculty members are facing virus problems for accessing electronic information. About 75 (88.23%) faculty members are in need of information literacy training program. Gupta and Seth (2015) attempt to find out the level of awareness of social networking sites among a sample of 300 faculty members of Government Degree Colleges of Jammu Division to determine their involvement with the emerging trends and tools to enhance academic performance.

The study highlights the problems encountered by the participants and suggests some remedial measures for improving awareness. Rafique (2014) studies to gauge the level of information literacy skills of faculty members of the University of Lahore. To collect required data from population, survey method was used. The participants consisted of the faculty members currently working in the University of Lahore, which reflected the conditions and environment of all campuses of the University of Lahore. A simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample from population of 650 faculty members of the university. The sample size consisted of 84 faculty members in randomly selection. A questionnaire was formulated and personally managed. Therefore collected data were evaluated. It was found that a majority of faculty members be deficient in searching catalogue and its use, choice of information sources, selection of relevant sources and formulation of search strategies. Likewise, many faculty members did not successful users of the university libraries.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the frequency of visit to the library by Science faculty members in first grade college libraries of University of Mysore.
2. To examine the level of needed information faculty members.
3. To identify the format of resources preferred by the faculty members to retrieve needed information.
4. To demonstrate search technique adopted by the faculty to retrieve needed information.
5. To find out knowledge on copyright for required information.

IV. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focuses only on Information Literacy Skills of Science Faculty Members of First Grade Colleges affiliated to University of Mysore, Karnataka.

V. METHODOLOGY

For the collection of data in the present study, Survey method was used. A structured questionnaire was prepared and randomly distributed 1000 questionnaires to Science Faculty Members of First Grade Colleges affiliated to University of Mysore to obtain required information to assess their Information Literacy Skills and total 826 filled questionnaires were received from respondents for data analysis. Simple frequency counting and percentage was applied for data analysis.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

A. Frequency of Visit of Library

TABLE I FREQUENCY OF VISIT LIBRARY BY RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Frequency of Visit	Frequency (826)	Percentage
1	Daily	351	42.5
2	Twice in a week	218	26.4
3	Once in a week	43	5.2
4	Once in a month	08	1.0
5	Occasionally	43	5.2
6	As and when required	163	19.7
Total		826	100.0

Table I depicts the frequency of visit to the library by Science faculty members. Out of total 826 faculty members, majority of them visit library accounting for 351(42.5%), followed by 218(26.4%) faculty members visit library twice in a week, further the study shows 163(19.7%) faculty members visit library as and when required. About 43(5.2%) of them visit library once in a week, followed by 43(5.2%) visit occasionally and only 8(1.0%) of them visit library once in a month respectively.

B. Opinion about Information Need on Internet

TABLE II OPINION ABOUT INFORMATION NEED ON INTERNET BY RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Responses	Frequency (826)	Percentage
1	Yes	826	100.0
2	No	00	0.0
Total		826	100.0

Table II indicates the opinion about the information need on Internet by the faculty members. The table shows that 100% of the faculty members are in need of information.

C. Level of Needed Information

Table III shows the level of needed information by Science Faculty Members. The table shows that majority of 420(50.8%) of Faculty Members need advance level of information, followed by 318(38.5%) Faculty Members need moderate level of information and only 88(10.7%) Faculty Members need basic kind of information.

TABLE III LEVEL OF NEEDED INFORMATION BY RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Level of Needed Information	Frequency (826)	Percentage
1	Basic	88	10.7
2	Moderate	318	38.5
3	Advance	420	50.8
Total		826	100.0

D. Format of Information

TABLE IV FORMAT OF INFORMATION BY RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Format of Information	Frequency (826)	Percentage
1	Print Format	144	17.4
2	Electronic format	141	17.1
3	Both format	541	65.5
Total		826	100.0

Table IV shows the format of needed information by science faculty members. Majority of 541(65.5%) faculty members desire information in both the format, followed by 144 (17.4%) faculty members desire required information in print format and only 141(17.1%) faculty members wish for information in electronic format.

E. Types of Information Needed by Respondents

TABLE V TYPES OF INFORMATION NEEDED BY RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Information Need	Frequency (826)	Percentage
1	Academic Information	817	98.9
2	Scientific Information	707	85.6
3	Current Information	760	92.0
4	Research oriented Information	666	80.6
5	Bibliographic Information	575	69.6
6	Statistical Information	385	46.6
7	Professional and Career Information	535	64.8

Table V provides the details on different types of information needed by the faculty members. Out of 826 faculty members, 817 faculty members need academic information representing 98.9% of the total sample. About 760(92.0%) faculty members need current information, followed by 707(85.6%) faculty members need scientific information, followed by 666(80.6%) faculty members need research oriented information, followed by 575(69.6%) faculty members need bibliographic information, followed by 535(64.8%) professional and career Information and only 385 (46.6%) faculty members need statistical Information.

F. Availability of Information Needed by Respondents

TABLE VI AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION NEEDED BY RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Availability of Information	Frequency	Percentage
1	Library	737	89.2
2	Internet	775	93.8
3	Institutions websites	396	47.9
4	Medias (TV, radio)	147	17.8

Table VI presents that out of 826 respondents, 775 faculty members say that the information they need is available in internet representing 93.8% of total sample. Then followed by 737 (89.2%) respondents opines that the information is available in the library, followed by 396 (47.9%) opines in institutions websites and only 147 (17.8%) respondents opines that needed information is available in Medias (TV, radio).

G. Search Techniques Used to Search Information Source

TABLE VII SEARCH TECHNIQUES USED TO SEARCH INFORMATION SOURCE

S. No.	Search Techniques	Frequency (826)	Percentage
1	Simple search	810	98.1
2	Phrase Search ("…")	243	29.4
3	Wild Card search/ Truncation (*/?)	16	1.9
4	Boolean search Technique (AND, OR, NOT)	539	65.3
5	Advanced search	344	41.6
6	Publishers search	546	66.1
7	Standard Numbers search (ISBN etc.)	380	46.0

Table VII shows the use of search techniques to retrieved information by the science faculty members. Out 826 faculty members, majority of 810(98.1%) faculty members are using simple search, followed by 546(66.1%) faculty members are using publishers search, followed by 539(65.3%) faculty members is adopting Boolean search technique, followed by 380(46.0%) faculty members are using Standard Numbers search, followed by 344(41.6%) faculty members are using advanced search, followed by 243(29.4%) of them use Phrase Search and only 16(1.9%) of theme use Wild Card search to get information.

H. Knowledge of Copyright

TABLE VIII KNOWLEDGE OF COPYRIGHT

S. No.	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	728	88.1
2	No	98	11.9
Total		826	100.0

Table VIII shows the knowledge of copyright. It is observed from the table that out of 826 faculty members 728 (88.1%) have the knowledge of copyright and remaining 98(11.9%) faculty members lacks knowledge of copyright.

VII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. It is found that out of 826 faculty members, majority of faculty members 351(42.5%) visit library daily and only 8(1.0%) faculty members visit library once in a month.
2. It is clear that majority of 420(50.8%) Faculty Members need advance level of information.
3. It is found that Majority of 541(65.5%) faculty members want information in both the format i.e., print and electronic format of information sources.
4. Out of 826 faculty members, 817 faculty members need academic information representing 98.9% of the total sample.
5. Majority of 775(93.8%) faculty members find needed information in internet.
6. It is observed that majority of 810(98.1%) faculty members have knowledge of Simple search techniques compared to other search technique.
7. Out of total respondents 728 (88.1%) faculty members have the knowledge of copyright

VIII. CONCLUSION

The inferences of the study reveal that maximum science faculty members of the first grade college affiliated to university of Mysore possess nominal level of information literacy skills, where as 100% of faculty members give preference for the need of information on internet, and majority of faculty members prefer both print as well as electronic format of information sources. Furthermore, many faculties are not very much acquainted with the use of wild card search and phrase search for efficient information retrieval they need. Training progrmmes has to be given to the faculties to improve the information literacy skills, so as this will enhance the knowledge how to access statistical information and search various institutional websites for relevant information.

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