

A STUDY ON ACCESSING DIGITAL LITERACY SKILL OF RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF GAUHATI UNIVERSITY, GUWAHATI, ASSAM

Dr. Prasanta Kumar Deka

Librarian (Associate)

K.C Das Commerce College, Chatribari,

Guwahati, Assam, India

Abstract

The rapid advancement of technology has influenced in every aspect of our life including the field of educational, hence digital literacy skills are important for academic community to cope up with these technological development. The present study explores the digital literacy skill of research scholars of Gauhati University, for which the researcher has identify different aspects like purpose of using digital resources , frequency of using these sources, IT skill of research scholars and searching technique of accessing the digital resources. For the study researcher has distributed 110 structure questionnaires among the research scholar of faculty of Arts, Gauhati University and received 87 responses from the respondents.

Keywords: Digital Literacy Skill, Gauhati University, , Research Scholar`

Introduction

In the age of digital era, availability of information are in various nature and also in various formats. That is why to accessing and getting the information one has to well verse in latest technologies. In this connection digital literacy is one of the major skills to cope up with the latest technological development for accessing or retrieving and delivering information. It is the process of teaching and learning about technology and

the use of technology .With the help of this skill one can locate, organize, understand, evaluate, as well as analyze information by using digital technology.

With the continuous development in the digital technologies, it is essential for every person to equitant with these developments so that they can get maximum benefits of such technological advancement and to some extent they become digitally literate by means of participate in digital environment.

Objectives

- To find out the frequency of using digital tools by the research scholars;
- To know the purpose of using digital resources;
- To identify the types of digital resources used for academic activities;
- To identify the IT skills of respondents;
- To identify the information searching techniques used by the respondent.

Limitation of the study

The present study is limited to only research scholars of Arts Stream.

Methodology

The present study is a descriptive study. For data collection both primary and secondary sources have been used and also used structured questionnaire. For analyzing the data, simple percentage analysis has been done. The total population of the study consist of all the departments of Arts Stream i.e. twenty two departments of Gauhati University. For the present study researcher has selected randomly 50% department as sample and 110 research scholars have been selected purposively for conducting the study.

Data interpretation and discussion

The collected data for the study has been organized in tabulated for discussion and getting the result.

Table 1: Responses Received from Respondents

Distribution of questionnaire	Received from respondent	Percentage (%)
110	87	79.09

The above table1 shows that out of 100 research scholars, 87 (79.09%) responses have received from respondents.

Frequency of using digital resources

Table2: Frequency in use of digital resources (N: 87)

Sl. No.	Frequency	No of Users	Percentage (%)
1	Daily	83	95.40
2	Twice in a week	3	3.45
3	Once in a week	1	1.15
4	Sometimes	0	0
5	Rarely	0	0

From the above table2, it has been found that majority of the research scholar 83 (95.40%) used digital resources daily. Research scholars using digital resources sometimes and rarely have not been found.

Purpose of using digital resources

Table3: Purpose using of digital resources (N: 87)

Purpose	No. of Respondent	Percentage (%)
Learning	49	56.32
Getting Current information	53	60.92
Update knowledge	61	70.11
For Seminar/ conference	49	56.32
Writing paper for publication	56	64.37
For research work	78	89.66

Table 3 shows that majority of the respondents use digital resources for the purpose of research work followed by 70.11% for update knowledge, 64.37 for writing paper for publication, and 60.92% for getting current information.

Types of digital resources used by the respondents

Table 4: Types of Digital Resources used (N: 87)

Digital Resources	No. of Respondent	Percentage (%)
E-journal	79	90.80
E-books	51	58.62
E-thesis/ dissertation	82	94.25
E-article	84	96.55
E-newspaper	57	65.56

Table 4 reveals that E-article, E-thesis/dissertation, E-journal are the most popular types of digital resources used by the majority of research scholars. 65.56% and 58.62% of research scholars have reported that they used E-newspaper, E-books respectively.

IT skill of Respondents

Table 5: IT skill of respondents (N: 87)

IT Skills	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
MS Word	87	100
MS Excel	73	83.91
MS PowerPoint	85	97.71
Internet	87	100
Multimedia	78	89.66
Programming Language	22	25.29
All of the above	0	0

From the above table5 it has been found that 100% research scholars have knowledge about MS word and internet followed by MS PowerPoint (97.71%), multimedia (89.66%), MS excel (83.91%).

Table 6: Use of search techniques for accessing digital resources (N: 87)

Sl. No.	Search technique	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Simple search	87	100
2	Boolean search	38	43.68
3	Truncation/ Wildcards	6	6.89
5	Any other	0	0

Table6 reveals that all the research scholars have used simple search technique for accessing digital resources, whereas only 6.89% research scholars have reported that they have used truncation search technique.

Findings

Major findings of the study are as follows-

- The majority of the research scholar 95.40% used digital resources daily.
- For the research work majority of respondents use digital resources.
- Study result shows that types of digital resources used by majority of research scholar are E-article, E-thesis/dissertation, E-journal
- It has been found that all the research scholars have the knowledge of MS word and Internet.
- All the respondents have reported that they used simple search techniques for searching digital resources.

Conclusion

Digital technology open up new opportunities for students as well as for research scholars to pursue their interests, search educational resources, experiences and courses anytime and anywhere. Digital Literacy is one of the important teaching learning processes about technology and the use of technology. It is the ability by virtue of which users are able to make use of information and communication technologies as well as they can find out, evaluate, create, and communicate information. The result of present study indicates that all the respondents have digitally literate to some extent but need to be update themselves in some areas like use of multimedia, different search techniques for accessing required information in proper way.

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