Information Literacy Skills among Post Graduate Students in Women Colleges Associated to Bharathidasan University

Dr.L. Santhi* S.Lakshmi** and R.Sakthivel***

Librarian, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Kovai
** Librarian, M.Kumarasamy College of Engineering, Karur-639 113
***Assistant Librarian, M.Kumarasamy College of Engineering, Karur-639 113

Abstract: *Information Literacy is a set of skills that is needed to discover, regain, examine and make use of the same. Today is world of Information Age where everyone needs to be information literate regardless of whatever positions they are in. Information literacy is the surest way of helping solve the problem of choosing the right information from the abundance of information from various media. This paper explains Information Literacy Skills among post graduate patrons particularly in women colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Trichy during their courseware. This article also refers to the problems in incorporating IL across their curriculum.*

Keywords: *Information Literacy, Post Graduate, Libraries, Women, Education, Bharathidasan University, Literacy Skills*

I. INTRODUCTION

Information literacy actually forms the origin for lifelong knowledge process, and in turn Libraries play a crucial role in providing these skills. Information Literacy has gained an extensive significance worldwide over the last few decades. As Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) develop rapidly, and the information environment becomes increasingly complex, developing Information Literacy among students and Research Scholars for lifelong learning is a vital element. Consequently it has been realized that for an successful running of the democratic world the citizens have to be Information Literate and they have to able to take accurate decisions for the improvement of their society with the purpose of transforming the world into a knowledge society.

II. INFORMATION LITERACY- AN OVERVIEW

Traditionally Literacy means the ability to read and write. But today it has various forms like print literacy, audiovisual literacy, web literacy media literacy, functional literacy, library literacy and Information Literacy.

Information Literacy- It can be defined as the ability to know, to be able to recognize, establish and evaluate information sources. In other words it is the ability to access, process and use information efficiently.

"The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) [1] define information literacy as 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".

III. WOMEN AND INFORMATION LITERACY

There was a time where the women were not favored in terms of their education. But nowadays we find in all spheres of our life we find Women empowerment. In a Wikipedia[2] article "Women in India" now participate fully in all areas such as education, sports, politics, media, art, culture, service sectors, science and technology etc. They are drivers, pilots, scientists, teachers, home makers, and what else. Now Women are being information literate and appear to be more sensitive than male in evaluating information sources. Prachi Salve[3] says that Kerala leads in Female literacy, while Tamil Nadu has most Women Entrepreneurs and Tamil Nadu follows Kerala with 90% Female Literacy.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There have been various number of studies conducted on information literacy among women postgraduates Students at various level all over the world.

Preet Rustagi (2016)[4] discussed about the gender development indicators, the issues, debates and measures in regards to the information literacy among women and also the ranking of districts have been discussed.

K. C. Ramakrishnegowda and R. H. Walmiki (2015)[5] Conducted a study in Kuvempu University to know the entry-level computer literacy and information literacy of the post-graduate students by suggesting the University to take steps to impart computer literacy and information literacy programmes to the students studying in the Constituent Colleges for the bachelor's degrees.

Robin Elizabeth Miller (2014)[6] concluded in his study that postgraduate students information literacy skills are marginally better than the skills of undergraduates students. Age was found to be associated with higher performance among undergraduate students. These findings prompt librarians and instructors to look closely at gaps in information literacy knowledge among students at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Ocholla L & Ocholla D (2014)[7] report lack of cataloguers to support Library information services. They also described that cataloguing and classification education in provides the baseline for the planning, teaching, marketing in the Library.

Joshi and Nikose (2010)[8] described that there is a technical imbalance between the rapidly developing technologies and information available to the users. Higher technical institutions should take a lead role in spreading knowledge of digital information resources.

Gloria J.Leckie and Anne Fullerton (1999)[9] investigated that Faculties awareness of, and support for, bibliographic instruction methods and perceived roles of science and engineering librarians were investigated.

The studies so far are limited to the use information literacy regardless of the gender factor. The studies mainly concentrated on librarian role and the technical side of the Libraries. Here a comprehensive study has been undertaken to gain knowledge of the information literacy among Post Graduate Patrons in Women Colleges associated to Bharathidasan University.

V. SELECTED WOMEN COLLEGES IN THIRUCHIRAPALLI AFFILIATED TO BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

- Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College
- Shrimati Indira Gandhi College (SIGC)
- Cauvery College for Women
- Holy Cross College

VI. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main Purpose of the study is to identify the Information Literacy skills cultivated among PG Students in Women Colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Trichy.
The following are the main objectives of the study

- To identify the information literacy standard level of students
- To have knowledge about assessment of new collection
- To know about the cataloguing services from the respondents
- To know about the bulletin board services from the respondents
- To know about the OPAC services from the respondents
- To identify the literacy level in searching area of specialization
- To find out the search engines highly utilized by the respondents

VII. METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The data was collected through a Structured Questionnaire given to 200 Students across 4 selected Colleges. The Questionnaire is divided into two parts. Part I deals with personal data and part II is on information literacy. There was 100% response from all the selected college students.

VIII. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study covers only the post graduate women students of selected women colleges affiliated to Bharathidasan University. It does not include under-graduate students.

IX. DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis of data is basically based on the research activities carried out through the questionnaires covering the selected college students. The respondents 100% belong to the age group between 20-25 years participated in the survey out of which 50% belong to Arts Discipline of Study and another 50% belonged to the Science discipline of study.

9.1 Analysis based on bibliographical service

Table 1 Users awareness on Bibliographical services

S. No.	Aware of bibliography	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	124	62
2	No	76	38
	Total	200	100

The above table shows the analysis of the students how much of them were using bibliography. This table indicates that 62% of students are using bibliographic and 38% of students are not yet started using bibliography services.

9.2 Analysis based on bulletin board services

Table 2 Awareness of Bulletin Board services

S. No.	Bulletin board services	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	111	55.5
2	No	89	44.5
	Total	200	100

The above table shows the use of bulletin board services by the students. In this 55.5% of students are using this but 44.5% of students of students are not using the bulletin board services.

9.3 Analysis based on online public access catalogue

Table 3 Use of OPAC services

S. No.	OPAC	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	142	71
2	No	58	29
	Total	200	100

The table shows about the use of OPAC services. In this 71% of students are know about in the library services. 29% of students are doesn't know about the services.

9.4 Analysis based on modes of searching recent information

Table 4 Modes of searching recent information

Modes of searching recent information	Frequency	Percent
A book	26	13
A Journal	23	11.5
Reference sources	30	15
News paper's	119	59.5
Don't know	2	1
Total	200	100

The table shows the distribution of various sources which provide recent information on any field. 59.5% of students have knowledge on how to use newspaper to find information on their interest field. 13% a book used to have knowledge to browse book to find recent information. 11.5% of them are journal to find recent information. The study indicates the majority of readers are having knowledge about to find recent information.

9.5 Analysis based on unavailability of document on catalogue

Table 5 Conclusion of unavailability of Document on Catalogue

Conclusion of unavailability of document on catalogue	Frequency	Percent
Library does not have any document on this topic	33	16.5
You have not used the right word	30	15
All document on this topic are already on loan	24	12
The system is down	24	12
Key word	28	14
Don't know	61	30.5
Total	200	100

This table gives an idea about of users concluding factor for an unavailability of document on cataloguing. 16.5% of respondents concluded that the library doesn't have any document on this topic. 15% of respondents felt that have not use the right word to found the topic. Finally 12% of respondents said that the system is not working properly.

9.6 Analysis based on promoting information literacy skills

Table 6 Promoting information literacy skills

Information literacy skills	Frequency	Percent
Highly	20	10
Moderately	35	17.5
Helpful	87	43.5
Not at all	58	29
Total	200	100

The table shows library professionals about their help in promoting literacy skills. 43.5% P.G students said that library professional are helpful for them in locating books and information in the library. 17.5% of them rated that library professional are moderately to providing guidance and literacy skills in locating information. 29% of them do not have awareness about information literacy skills. The study indicates that professionals in the library are helpful in promoting the information literacy skills among the users.

X. SUMMARY OF THE ANALYSIS

It is observed from the study that majority of the students are aware of what is information literacy and also aware of various information search strategy tools. From the study we come to know that 62% of students are having awareness about using bibliographical services, 55.5% are using bulletin board services. OPAC is being used 71% of the students and aware how to use it but around 30.5% of the students are not aware of concluding about the unavailability of the documents in OPAC. Most of the students refer to newspapers to find recent information on their field of interest. Finally 44% of students felt that library professional are helpful for them in locating books and information in the library.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. At the undergraduate level, there can be short information literacy programme is carried on by the librarians for the P.G students.
2. There should be regular reading hours for the student for library from where they can get most of the information literacy skills from the academic staff members
3. The school of library and information science can conduct regular library skill program for the libraries to guide the users to locate the require information for their need.
4. There can be tests conducted after the information literacy skill programme to evaluate regularly the student's perception immediate after their Orientation.
5. Finally, Library Staff has to be in close collaboration between the teaching units and information literacy specialists by encouraging them to explore the library services.

Librarians are knowledgeable in collecting, evaluating, organizing and providing access to information thus they possess proper knowledge and skills. This entails that librarians are potentially prepared with all the abilities and skills essential not only to be information literate but to educate information literacy to other persons. Library instruction programs have long offered library tours to introduce users to the physical organization of the library.

XII. CONCLUSION

The ultimate goal of any library service is to ensure that the students and staff are able to access the information for purposes for which they require it. This raises the need to teach information literacy to users with the goal of assisting clients to identify and select relevant information using appropriate search strategies and being able to evaluate, organize and synthesize that information into a meaningful presentation. The library professionals should take initiative in conducting various information literacy programmes in the college environment and update their skills by attending various seminars and workshops conducted by various organizations. All above modules help the library user in locating the information and become information literate.

REFERENCES

[1]. American Library Association. (2000). Information literacy competency standards for higher education.
[2]. Women in India. (2017, February 14). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 11:28, February 22, 2017, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Women_in_India&oldid=765395970
[3]. Prachi Salve Oct, 04 2016 "Tamil Nadu, Kerala have the most number of women entrepreneurs and high female literacy" http://www.firstpost.com/business/tamil-nadu-kerala-have-the-most-number-of-women-entrepreneurs-and-high-female-literacy-3033194.html
[4]. Rustagi, P. (2016). Gender development indicators: issues, debates and ranking of districts.

[5]. Ramakrishnegowda, K., & Walmiki, R. (2014). Assessment of Information Literacy and Computer Literacy among Post Graduate Students: a Case Study of Kuvempu University Library Users. SRELS Journal Of Information Management, 41(4), 367-382. doi:10.17821/srels/2004/v41i4/44502

[6]. Miller, R. (2014). Graduate Students May Need Information Literacy Instruction as Much as Undergraduates. Evidence Based Library and Information Practice, 9(3), 104-106. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.18438/B8BG7B

[7]. Ocholla, L., & Ocholla, D. (2014). Cataloguing and Classification Education (CCE) and Training in Library and Information Science/ Studies Departments in South Africa. South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science, 80(1). doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.7553/80-1-166

[8]. Joshi, P. A. (2010). Mapping Internet information literacy among faculty members: a case study of Rajiv Gandhi College of Engineering, Chandrapur.

[9]. Leckie, G. J., & Fullerton, A. (1999). Information literacy in science and engineering undergraduate education: faculty attitudes and pedagogical practices. College & Research Libraries, 60(1), 9-29.