

MAPPING OF E-INFORMATION LITERACY IN DR.BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the present paper is to highlight the concept of Literacy, Information Literacy, E-Information Literacy and to specify objectives, hypothesis, limitations, methodology, analysis and findings of the study.

Keywords: - Literacy, Information Literacy, E-Information Literacy, BAMU, ACRL & ALA

1. INTRODUCTION

The greatest challenge for society in the 21st century is to keep pace with the knowledge and technological expertise necessary for finding, applying and evaluating information. It is acknowledged that we live in an information-rich

society where the amount of information in the world is presently doubling every three years. Therefore it is necessity of 21st century to include information literacy (IL) in education.

The information society calls for all people to become information literate which means that they should not only be able to recognize when information is needed but also be able to identify, locate, evaluate and use effectively information needed for decision making or fulfilling different goals. IL is increasingly important in the present context of the information explosion and related uncertainties about its authenticity, validity, and reliability.

In 21st century, IL has become a crucial issue for the political, economic, social & cultural development in all countries. IL is global phenomenon today. It is information gap that divides the nations & the citizens of a nation into rich & poor. It is information literacy that helps in closing this gap.

2. DEFINITIONAL ANALYSIS

- ✚ Information - information is data that has given shape. It may be considered as processed data. Thus, information is data plus the meaning, which has to be a result of human action (Seetharama, 1999).
- ✚ Literacy - literacy involves the ability to use language in its written form: a literate person is able to read, write and understand his or her native language and expresses a simple thought in writing (**Bawden, 2001**).
- ✚ Information Literacy - Information Literacy is an understanding and set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed, have the ability to locate, evaluate, use effectively the needed information and create information within cultural and social context (ACRL,2004; ALA, 1989; **CILIP, 2005**; **UNESCO, 2003**; Karisiddappa and Kavita, 2005).
- ✚ E-Information Literacy - Electronic information literacy refers to literacy activities (such as reading, writing, and research) that are delivered, supported, accessed, or assessed through computers or other electronic means rather than paper (Martin & Rader, 2003).
- ✚ BAMU - Marathwada University established in August 1958 was renamed in 1994 as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University

(BAMU) is located at Aurangabad. The jurisdiction of BAMU is Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed & Osmanbad districts.

3. E-INFORMATION LITERACY

The term information literacy achieved its current prominence within the library community with the advent of the information explosion. An information environment characterized by an exponential increase in information that is freely available over the internet, along with the rapid development of information technologies that facilitate the access and dissemination of this information (Grafstein, 2007).

The term “information literacy” was first introduced in 1974 by Zurkowski (the President of the US Information Industry Association), in a submission to the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, to identify people trained in the application of information resources to their work (Joint, 2005; Jagtarsingh, 2008).

The idea of information literacy, which emerged with the advent of information technologies in the early 1970s, has grown, taken shape and strengthened to become recognized as the critical literacy for the 21st century. He recognized that ‘information literates’ would be better able to exploit information resources (Bruce, 2002).

E-Literacy and Information Literacy are different but mutually compatible concepts with validity within specific contexts. Most librarians work within hybrid library environments, and may feel that e-Literacy is a single medium concept and as a practical tool for promoting the use of their mixed medium information service it is less useful than Information Literacy (Joint, 2005).

Electronic information literacy refers to literacy activities (such as reading, writing, and research) that are delivered, supported, accessed, or assessed through computers or other electronic means rather than paper ; is awareness, skills, understandings and reflective-evaluative approaches that are necessary for an individual to operate comfortably in an information rich and IT-supported environment (Martin and Radar, 2003); ability to search retrieves, organize, employ, and evaluate information derived from electronic information

resources (Fortier, 1998); to encompass the combined literacy skills which relate to IT literacy as well as information literacy skills and concomitant creation of new information (Beatty and Mountifield, 2005).

4. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Present study has been undertaken with a view.

- To study the extent of Information Literacy in PG & Research Students of the Science Departments in BAMU, with special emphasis on the E-Information Literacy.

5. HYPOTHESIS

- Awareness of use of Internet is prominent amongst the PG & Research Students in Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.

6. SCOPE & LIMITATION

The present study is limited to PG as well as Research students of Science faculty in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. The main focus of this study is to identify the needs & requirements of users in general & to know e-resources. While teachers of all faculties including science faculty, PG & Research students of other faculties have been excluded from the present study.

7. METHODOLOGY

Present study has used survey method. This method plays a significant role in research as can be seen from the statement. "The survey method is one of the most effective and sensitive instruments of research survey research can produce much needed knowledge" (Kasyap, 1969).

7.1 Data collection

To know the needs of students covered, a structured questionnaire was designed and factual questions, opinion questions were asked. The researcher has distributed 360 questionnaires to PG & research Scholars, 312

questionnaires duly filled returned by students i.e. the response rate was 86.66%.

8. DATA ANALYSIS & FINDINGS

The data collected was analyzed & findings were noted as follows:

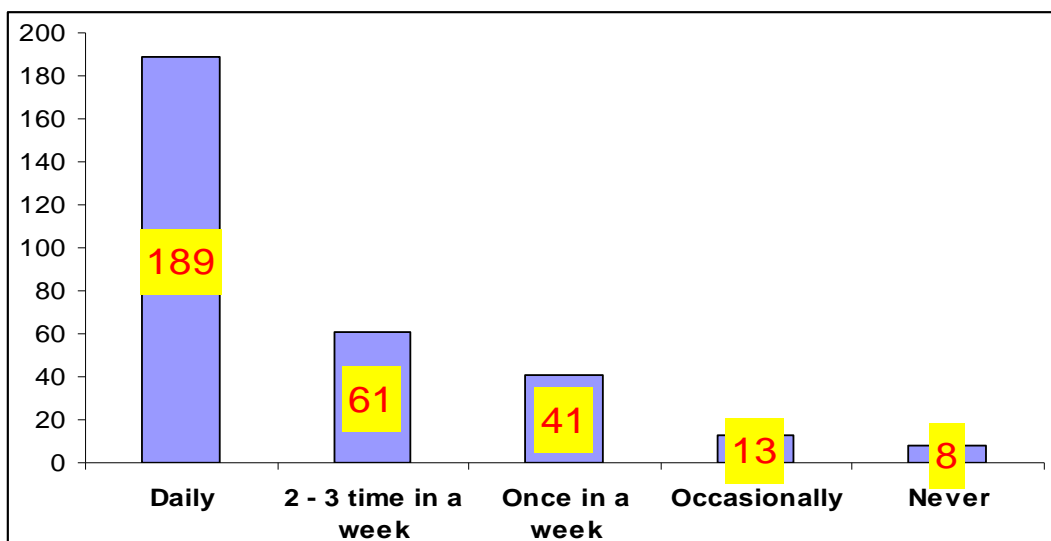
1. It was found that that majority i.e. 85.90% respondents are fluent in use of computer.

Table No. 8.1 Frequency of Using Computer

Frequency	No. of Users
Daily	195
Once in a week	68
Once in a month	41
Once in a while	8
Total	312

2. It can be noted from table 8.1 that majority 62.50% respondents using computer daily, while 37.50% respondents were using computer rarely i.e. either weekly, once in a month or once in a while.

Fig No. 8.1 Frequency of using Internet



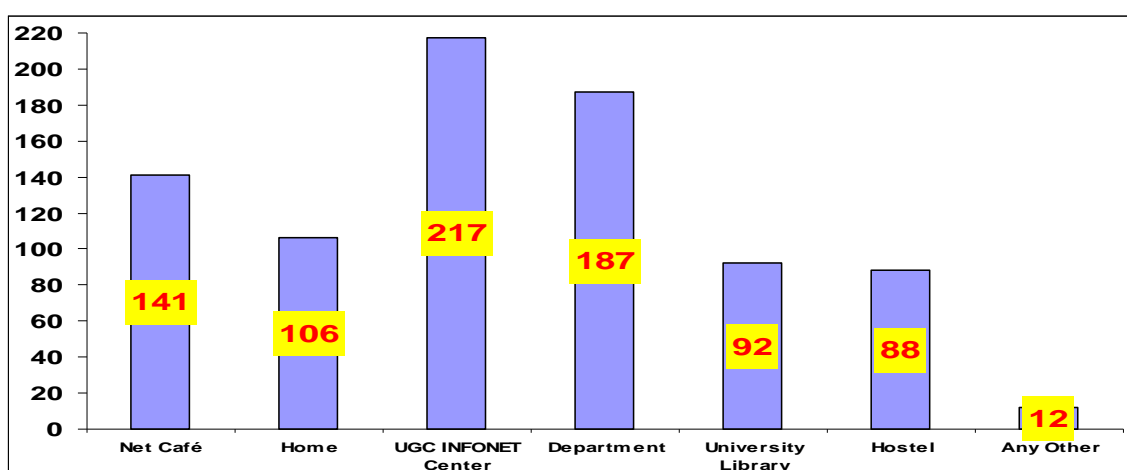
3. It can be revealed from figure 8.1 that majority 60.58% respondents using internet daily, while 39.42% respondents were using internet rarely i.e. either 2 – 3 time or once in week or occasionally. This proves the hypothesis “**Awareness of Internet use is prominent**” (Hypothesis No.1).

Table No. 8.2 Time Spent on Internet

Time Spent	No. of Users
Less than 1 hour a week	12
2 – 4 hours a week	28
5 – 6 hours a week	28
7 – 9 hours a week	28
More than 10 hours a week	28
Total	312

4. It can be noted from Table 8.2 that majority 50.32% respondents spend 7 – 9 hours a week on Internet, while 49.68% respondents were spent less than 1 hour, 2 – 4 hours, 5 – 6 hours & more than 10 hours in a week respectively. This proves the hypothesis “**Awareness of Internet use is prominent**” (Hypothesis No.1).

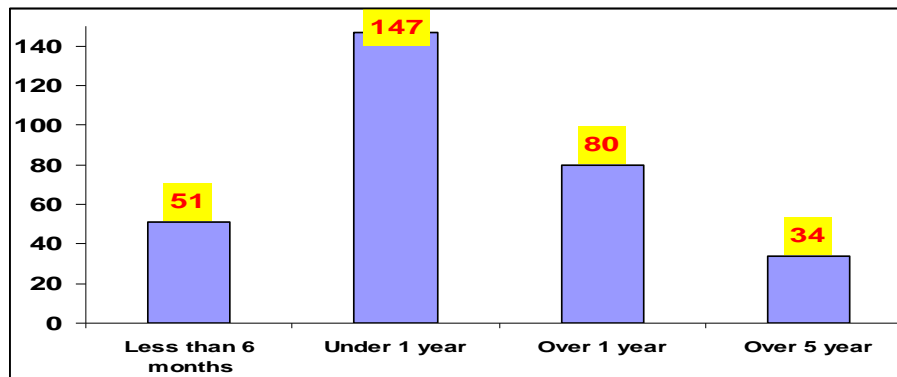
Fig No. 8.2 Place of Accessing Internet



5. In this question users were allowed to select more than one option therefore the percentage is more than 100%. It can be revealed from

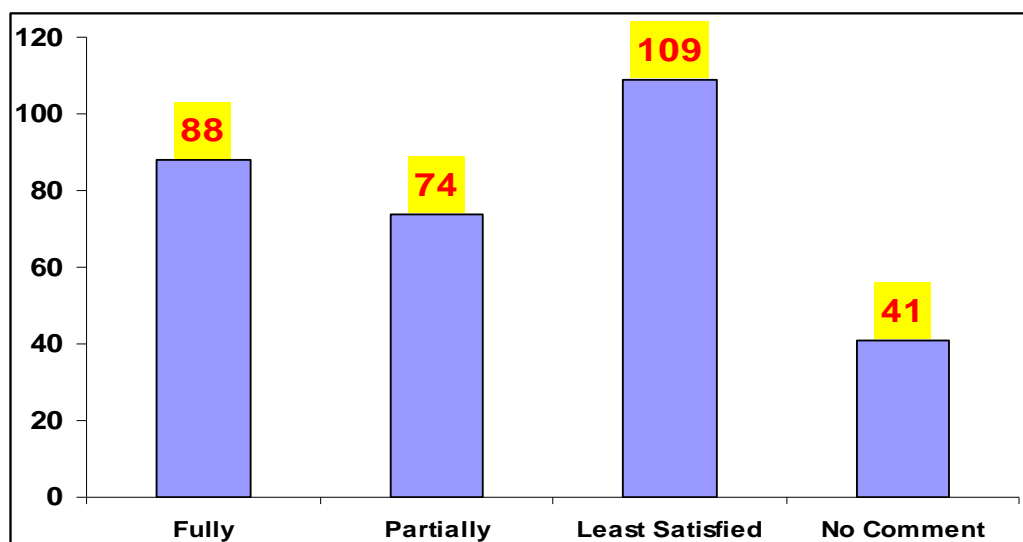
figure 8.2 that majority i.e. 69.55% & 59.94% respondents accessing internet at UGC INFONET Center & Department respectively.

Fig No. 8.3 Experience of Internet Use



6. It can be revealed from figure 8.3 that majority 47.12% students having under 1 year experience, while 23.72% students having over 1 year experience of using Internet.

Fig No. 8.4 Satisfaction level of using Internet



7. It can be noted from figure 8.4 that majority i.e. 34.94% students were least satisfied, while 28.21% students were fully satisfied. Remaining 23.71% students partially & 13.14% students says no comment.

Table No. 8.3 Internet Skills of Users

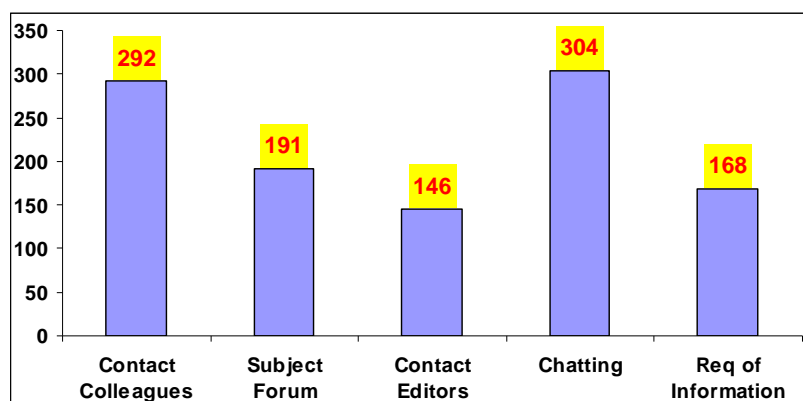
Internet Skills	No. of Users
Excellent	126
Very Good	74
Good	53
Fair	44
Poor	15

8. It can be noted from Table 8.3 that 40.38% & 23.72% students were having Excellent & Very Good Internet skills respectively. This proves the hypothesis “**Awareness of Internet use is prominent**” (Hypothesis No.1).

Table No. 8.4 Purpose of Browsing Internet

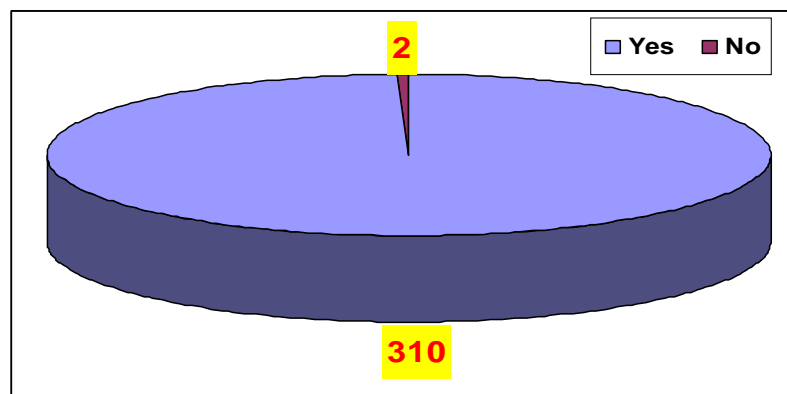
Purpose	No. of Users
E-mail	279
E-resources	191
OPAC	146

9. In this question users were allowed to select more than one option therefore the percentage is more than 100%. It is observed from Table 8.4 that 89.42% & 61.22% students browsing internet for the purpose of E-mail & E-resources respectively. This proves the hypothesis “**Awareness of Internet use is prominent**” (Hypothesis No.1).

Figure No 8.5 Purpose of Using E-mail

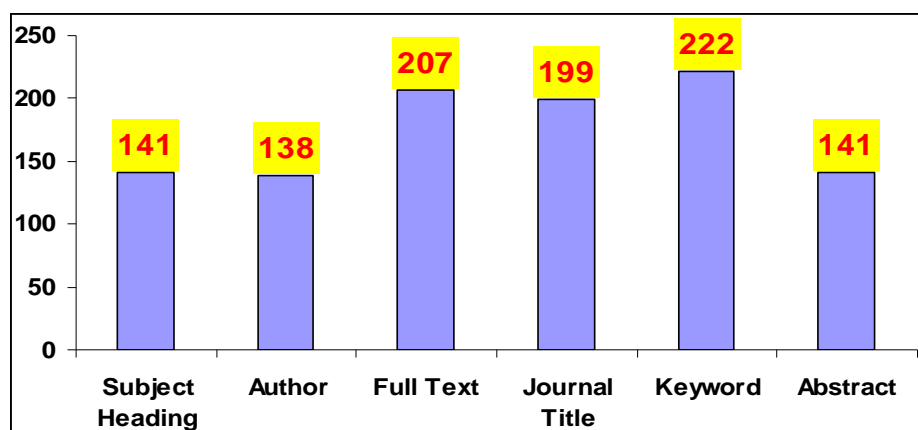
10. In this question users were allowed to select more than one option therefore the percentage is more than 100%. It can be noted from figure 8.5 that 97.44% & 93.59% respondents using e-mail service for chatting & contact colleagues.

Fig No. 8.6 Use of Search Engines



11. It can be revealed from figure 8.6 that 99.36% users are using search engines, except 0.64% i.e. only 2 students are not using search engines. This proves the hypothesis “**Awareness of Internet use is prominent**” (Hypothesis No.1).

Fig No. 8.7 Searching for articles



12. In this question users were allowed to select multiple options therefore the percentage is more than 100%. It can be noted from figure 8.7 that majority of the users search articles with the help of keywords i.e. 71.15,

Remaining 66.34% & 63.78% users search articles by Author & Journal Title. While 45.19% & 44.23% of the users searching articles with the help of Subject heading, Abstracts and Author respectively.

Table No. 8.5 Preferable Format for Downloading

Preferable Format	No. of Users
PDF	279
HTML	191
DOC	146
RTF	81

13. In this question users were allowed to select multiple options therefore the percentage is more than 100%. It can be resolved from Table 8.5 that majority 89.42% of the users' use PDF format for downloading document. HTML format is used by 61.22% users & 46.79% of users used DOC type. While RTF format is used by only 25.96% of users.

9. CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded that, in digital era users must have the knowledge of ICT as well as experience of using Internet & it's Technology.

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