

KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF INFORMATION LITERACY AMONG B.TECH. STUDENTS: A CASE STUDY OF ENGINEERING COLLEGES OF JAIPUR RAJASTHAN

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Abstract

This research paper presents the knowledge and awareness of information Literacy among B.Tech students of engineering colleges of Jaipur, Rajasthan. The purpose of the study was to assess the B.Tech. (Engineering & Technology) student's information Literacy skills. To collect data from the respondents a structured questionnaire was used. Total 400 questionnaires submitted to 40 engineering & Technical colleges of Jaipur City, Rajasthan (each college 10 questionnaire). The data collection was completed during March to July 2014 by personal visit in every college. The result of study found that information literacy skills are providing important role among students of engineering colleges. Some suggestions have been also given to in corporate information literacy among the engineering college students.

Keywords - Awareness, Information, Information Literacy, Engineering & Technology, Jaipur.

1. INTRODUCTION

Present era is an information era and full of information and communication Technology enabled services in every field of human life. Information is being codified in digital form. So role of information literacy is important in our society. Information Literacy is vital skill to survive in digital era. Information literacy is important in the contemporary environment of rapid technological change and proliferating information resources.

Today contemporary society is called knowledge society where information has become a valuable resource of value and its production and consumption level is an index to the social, economic, technological and academic advancement of the society. For driving smoothly the role of technology is increased in the society. The new information technology with its tools such as computer, internet is the current of the manifestation of the important role that information is playing in all sector of society. So knowledge of information literacy is must to be handling these information Technology.

Information literacy is survival skill in the new information age which is challenging the common man with advance of information every day. Information literacy works as a life jacket to save the human brain from unwanted and unnecessary information flood. According to American library association's final report states "To be information literate a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information".

2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

It has been observed that there be a major gaps in engineering students information skills. Knowledge of use of information technology tools should have to engineering students. The main scope of the study confines to focus on knowledge of information skills of engineering and Technology students in identifying locating searching, accessing, retrieving and using information. The study include B.Tech students of various branches like Civil Engineering, Electrical, Mechanical, Computer science, Information Technology are studying in various engineering college affiliated to Rajasthan Technical university, Kota located in Jaipur.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The present study knowledge of information literacy among B.Tech. students of engineering colleges of Jaipur, Rajasthan has tried to find out the information literacy among the engineering students. The study was carried out under the following objective-

1. To know knowledge of using tools of Information Technology.
2. To identify the most preferred documents in the library by the engineering students.
3. To know the student frequency to visit their college library.
4. To identify the competency level of information Literacy among the B.Tech. students of engineering colleges, Jaipur.
5. To find out the areas in that the students lacking information skills.
6. To make suggestions on how the information literacy skills increased to the engineering students.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Population of the study was engineering college students of Jaipur city. There are about 50 engineering colleges in the Jaipur and we have selected 40 colleges for the study. A

questionnaire has designed to collect the data from the respondents. Questionnaire were in multiple questions and simple in English. Each of college 10 questionnaires was distributed among the students of different branches. Total 400 questionnaires have distributed to 40 colleges. Out of Four hundred questionnaires only 360 respondents received back. The response rate was 90% and finally for result of study investigator selected 360 questionnaire for analysis and interpretation the data.

5. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study focus on information literacy skill among B.Tech. Students of in identify searching. Retrieving and using information from these library both print and electronic sources of information. The investigator has collected data only from the engineering and Technical students who were available in the college campus of libraries of the selected engineering colleges during January 2014 to July 2014, even semester of the students. Only 40 private engineering colleges affiliated to the Rajasthan Technical University have selected for the purpose of this study.

6. ANALYSIS OF COLLECTION OF DATA

Total 13 questions intended by judge the information literacy skills of the B.Tech students of engineering college-

Table. No. 1. Gender wise distribution of respondents

Gender	Total	Percentage
Male	207	57.5%
Female	153	42.5%
Total	360	100%

Above table no 1. Shows the gender wise distributions of respondents. The numbers of male respondents 207 than the female counter part 153 respondents.

Table-2. Frequency of visit to the engineering college library.

S.No.	Frequency	Total	Percentage
1	Daily	119	33.5
2	Twice in a week	57	15.83
3	Once in a week	46	12.77
4	Free time	77	21.38
5	Library period	89	24.72
	Total	360	100

The revolved from the data of above table 2 shows that majority of students (33.5%) are visiting the library daily followed by their library period (24.72%). Twice in a week 15.83% and 12.77% respondents visit the library once in a week. A good numbers of 21.38% respondents visited when they have free time. The result shows that students have followed their library period also in the engineering college libraries.

Table 3. Use of Available Documents in Library

S.No.	Document Type	Total	Percentage
1	Text Books	264	73.34
2	Reference Books	31	8.62
3	News paper	38	10.55
4	Periodicals	20	5.55
5	Thesis & Dissertation	7	1.94
	Total	360	100

Table-3. Indicates the frequently document used by the B.Tech. Student in Jaipur. Majority of student (73.34%) are using textbooks available in the library related to their course work and syllabus. Followed by newspapers 10.33% and Reference Books were used by 8.62% respondents, periodicals 5.55% and thesis & dissertation were used 1.94% only.

Table -4. Methods used by B.Tech students to search documents in library.

S.No.	Methods used by students	Total	Percentage
1	Search book shelve directly	248	68.87
2	Taking assistant from the library staff	94	26.10
3	Taking assistant from friends	11	3.50
4	Used OPAC	7	1.93
	Total	360	100

Above table 4 shows the searching method of respondents in their library. Most of students found or searched their books in library by self approach. 68.88% approached directly, 26.11 were searched by assistant of library staff, 3.5% with friends and 1.94% respondents took the assistance of OPAC.

Table -5. Are you usage internet to collect information for your study purpose?

S.No.	Response	Total	Percentage
1	Yes	220	61.12
2	No	140	38.88
	Total	360	100

The above table no.5 shows that use of internet among B.Tech. students and depending of them are more in their studying. Modern era is information era and majority of respondents (61.12%) were used internet for their study purpose. However 38.88% students gave their statement as no used internet.

Table -6. Frequently used search engine.

S.No.	Search engines	Total	Percentage
1	Google	298	82.78
2	Yahoo	40	11.11
3	Alta Vista	14	3.89
4	Other	8	2.22
	Total	360	100

Above table no. 6 indicate the most of students used search engine by the responds, Majority of the respondents (82.78%) were used Google search engine followed by 11.11% used yahoo, 3.88% alta vista and some also user others were 2.22% respectively. The Google search engine in top position for getting information from internet.

Table-7. Knowledge of using Boolean operators.

S.No.	Boolean operations	Total	Percentage
1	Or	56	15.55
2	And	218	60.56
3	Not	68	18.89
4	Any	18	5.0
	Total	360	100

Table No. 7 revolved the data about knowledge or awareness of using search words for retrieve data. The majority of respondents (60.56%) have answered that and operator is more helpful for retrieve the greatest no of record. Mostly students are not knowing the using Boolean operator because most of students respondents have tick on “AND” operator but only 15.55% are give right answer OR. This indicates that need to be training for searching the Boolean operators.

Table -8. Are you aware on creating a safest password?

S.No.	Password	Total	Percentage
1	dldfy	86	23.88
2	98765	40	11.12
3	SRI GANESH	31	8.62
4	Bd*51%	170	47.22
5	Abc786	33	9.16
	Total	360	100

Awareness of creating a good and secure password is essential and keeps out identity safe on the web era. The answer of the question of awareness about safe password. Most of the respondents (47.29%) have good answer (result in table 8). Because a good and safe

password is a alpha numeric with special character using small and capital letter in the password. Another 23.88 % response that small letter (dccc), 11.12% is their phone no. or any numeric no. their name is 8.62%, total 9.16% students also accept that alphanumeric password is a safe password.

Table No 9. Knowledge of plagiarism

S.No.	Knowledge of plagiarism	Total	Percentage
1	Knowledge of plagiarism	162	45
2	Is it got permission to copy of another work	43	11.94
3	Plagiarism is a software	88	24.45
4	In correct use of footnote	30	8.34
5	No any idea	37	10.27
	Total	360	100

Table No-9. Shows the awareness of B.Tech. students about plagiarism. The respondents shows that majority of students (45%) know about plagiarism only 10.27% students of B.Tech. said no idea about plagiarism. 24.25% respondents given their idea that the Plagiarism is a software.

Table No- 10. Knowledge of Citations.

S.No.	Sources of citations	Total	Percentage
1	Periodicals	195	54.17
2	Books	70	19.44
3	Chapter of Book	45	12.51
4	Proceedings	14	3.88
5	No Know	36	10
	Total	360	100

Above Table No. 10 show the result of knowledge of citations, all scholarly and research writing it is necessary to document the source work with citations. For this purpose knowledge of citation an important is this study result shows that majority of students (54.17) given answer rightly, rest of the respondents does not right answer.

Table No -11. Knowledge of open source software.

S.No.	Response	Total	Percentage
1	Yes	315	87.5
2	No	45	12.5
	Total	360	100

Table No-11. Revealed the knowledge of open source software among B.Tech. students of engineering colleges, It is the good and positive answer that majority of respondents (87.5%) have aware about open source software they like daily was only 45 respondents (12.5%) have not knowledge of open source software.

Table No- 12. Use of social networking site like face book, whats app, continuous.

S.No.	Usages	Total	Percentage
1	Continuous usage	206	57.22
2	Use in a week	63	17.5
3	Not fix time	69	19.16
4	Not use	22	6.12
	Total	360	100

Table No-12. Show the interest of social networking the B.Tech. students. Majority of students (57.22%) are using social networking site and other continuous. 17.5% students used once a week, 19.16% not fix time. However in the mobile internet era 6.12%% responded more are use of these type sites.

7. RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTIONS

The every engineering college library should conduct an orientation program for the students especially for the new or first year students on how to use and what information contained in various reference sources like dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, yearbooks, thesis and dissertation etc.

- Librarian should also help to students for training and knowledge of information literacy at the libraries premises.
- In co-ordination with the teaching faculty the librarian should design an information literacy course module to train the engineering & technical students.
- Faculty member should inspire students to explore the unknown after guidance on how to fulfill information needs.
- RTU should have included a chapter on information literacy on their course syllabus for students.

8. CONCLUSION

Information literacy is an important component in any engineering education system. The present study to assess the information literacy skills of the engineering students (B.Tech. students) of different branch and different colleges at Jaipur, Rajasthan affiliated with Rajasthan Technical University, Kota. The finding revealed that in the engineering colleges, mostly visited to library issues the text books for their study. The result show that information literacy of information Technology is not good in engineering college of Jaipur. Most of students are seeing that best source of information in library for their study is a text

book but they do not know that many other primary information resources also available in library like periodicals, encyclopedia, E-journal etc. Most of the students have visited the library when they have free time or library periods.

The engineering college's management principal and faculty members and librarian should also be aware that students will not on their own pick up the necessary information literacy skills. The engineering students find it difficult to construct search strategies to retrieve relevant information to navigate different Information Communication Technologies and evaluate and select quality information.

9. SUGGESTION

Following suggestion should be helpful for improving information literacy of the B.Tech. students.

1. College library should be organized an orientation programme for the new comers (B.Tech. students) on how to use library and their resources like dictionaries, encyclopedias, Journals and Magazines, Reference Books, Thesis and dissertations. The librarian can also give training on gone to use OPAC in library in this programme.
2. Rajasthan Technical University should include a chapter in the curriculum on information Literacy and make compulsory for every students.
3. College Management should provide enough infrastructure of information literacy programme.
4. By the help of faculty, librarian could design an information literacy course for the help of B.Tech. students.
5. Government also should design and develop the Information library curriculum at different levels of education initiate higher educational institutions.
6. To conduct regional level seminars, Workshops, Conference be organized by collaboration of engineering colleges & university. To redefine and restating the role of information literacy in the growing digital environment.

10. CONCLUSION

Information Literacy is an important tool for the students of engineering colleges. Information Literate students are more effective consumers of information resources. They learn to recognize that information is packaged in a variety of ways. The main aim of present study is to develop the information literacy skills or Information literacy knowledge for the B.Tech. students of engineering & Technical colleges. The major finding shows that information literacy in an important and very helpful for their study. Because information literate students are more critical when they make decisions about the resources they use. In this study the finding revealed that majority of B.Tech. students have visited the library daily (33.05%), followed by respondents (73.33%) are visiting to library fort use of library resources, "Textbooks". Because textbooks more help of students in there study. Mostly respondents (68.88%) at their library directly approach to shelves for searching the

documents. Mostly respondents (61.12%) were using internet for their study purpose. Google is on first priority for searching information by respondents (82.78%). In the choose of password for security, only 47.22% respondents were chosen there password included alphabetical small & capital, number and special sign. Rest was not selecting the good password. 45% students know about plagiarism, 54.17% respondents have knowledge of citation copy right and others result also show that social networking are useful for share information among the B.Tech. students.

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