Chapter 1
Association Between Information Literacy and Growth of Scientific Literature

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ABSTRACT

The present chapter analyses the information literacy of the faculty members and also the relationship between information literacy and growth of literature. The survey was conducted among the faculty members of both Engineering and Arts & Science Colleges in Tamil Nadu. The study revealed that the majority of the faculty members have information literacy at average level. Academic productivity is more among the members of the faculty of Arts and Science Colleges than Engineering Colleges. Academic productivity shows information literacy significantly contributes to the growth of literature in their respective field. The comparison of information literacy among the faculty members shows that they differ significantly on information literacy based on age, type of college and familiarity of computer; and do not differ significantly based on gender, locality, experience, discipline and familiarity of internet.

INTRODUCTION

Generally, the library and information centre is an integral part of the higher educational institution, which satisfies the information requirements of the academic community consisting of students, teachers and scholars. It acts as a hub of the teaching and learning activities where students, teachers and researchers interact with print and non-print materials to fulfil their day-to-day information requirements. In the traditional library of print sources, the concept of information searching becomes more tedious and users have to spend more time, energy when compared to latest emerging technology of online sources. Advancements in Information Communication Technology (ICT) based technology and its implications to the library made the information search become more complex. The information search can be made easy through information literacy programmes which in turn help to enhance the academic productivity of end users.

The impact of ICT in the information age is rightly pointed out by Swain & Panda (2009) as

…the rapid advancement of information and communication technology has brought a revolutionary change in the information scenario giving rise to a number of options to handle varied information sources conveniently and effortlessly as a result of which e-resources have become the most sought after modern library's reserves in satisfying varied needs of students, teachers, and researchers with minimum risk and time.

The impact of technologies such as CD-ROMs, multimedia, computer networks, Internet etc., have lead library into a paperless library. Changes in technology have dramatically altered how information is accessed, stored, preserved and disseminated. Now-a-days, the word *e* is associated not only with library resources such as e-resources but also with every field. In this context, the effective retrieval of information by the academic community depends on their information literacy on e-resources.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Information literacy is the ability of the individual to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the information needed. It is the ability to use information from various sources in an effective and efficient manner to promote learning and scholarly communication.

Being information literate requires knowing how to clearly define a subject or area of investigation, select appropriate terminology that expresses the concept, formulate search strategy that takes into consideration different sources of information and various ways that information is organised; analyse the collected data for its value, relevancy, authority, quality, reliability and subsequently turn information into knowledge. In the changing environment of the library, the information literacy skills or information competency becomes an essential one. It is noteworthy to mention the definition given by the American Library Association (ALA) Presidential committee on Information Literacy, "To be information literate, a person must be able to recognise when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information".

Information literacy skills are closely related to information technology skills, especially when information sources and access tools are increasingly based on digital technologies. As more digital technologies spread, an appropriate level of education should be developed to ensure that people are able to use technologies.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature review is concerned with the survey of a particular work or work published in a particular field or topic. Some of the studies related to information literacy are briefly presented here.

Adeleke and Emeahara (2016) studied the relationship between information literacy and use of electronic information resources for academic purposes by postgraduate students of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Low level of usage of electronic resources, in particular, full texts data bases is linked to lack of search techniques skills by many postgraduate students of the university to access the myriad of e-resources. There was significant relationship between information literacy skills and use of electronic

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