Chapter 14

Gender Differences of ICT Skills Among LIS Professionals in Universities of Tamil Nadu:
An Analytical Study

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the chapter is to investigate the gender differences of ICT skills of LIS professionals working in the Universities of Tamil Nadu. The study covered 47 universities including 19 state universities, 2 central universities, and 26 deemed universities. In the present study, the data was collected from the respondents through a structured questionnaire using survey method and adopted simple random sampling. The questionnaire contains attitudes of communication skills, use of ICT and related gadgets, level of awareness/skill in the computer applications/services, attitude towards ICT implications, problems of implications of ICT, and areas of ICT skills where training is required among male and female respondents. Totally, 441 respondents are selected from these 47 universities including 325 male and 116 female respondents. The study used SPSS Ver. 23 was used for performing necessary statistical analysis means, s Ranks, Independent 'T' Test, and Chi-Square Analysis the collected data to draw necessary inferences. It is brought to light that 100% of male and female respondents agree that they would like to know more about ICT. Around 90% of male and female respondents agree that ICT helps them to present research articles in the seminars/workshops/conferences and find it easy to select appropriate ICT resources related to work environment. About 85-90% of both female and male respondents agree that ICT motivates the library staff to learn effectively, it saves the time of the library staff in many ways, it provides high level security for library resources, and it facilitates easy information exchanges. Further, the chapter also provided a platform to LIS professionals to find out the area of focus to learn and update their ICT skills in digital environment and electronic resources by LIS professionals for efficient delivery of library services for the betterment of the library as a whole.

INTRODUCTION

Librarians have transitionally been concerned with certain functions and most of these have their parallels in the electronic publishing era. Collection development and acquisitions: deciding what materials to obtain for their user community finding out how to get hold of the chosen materials and buying them. A skill is the ability or talent to perform a task well or better than average. It is a human ability to apply and success in his/her profession. So library and information professionals are needed to have some of the basic skills. Information and Communication Technology applications transformed the traditional libraries into the automated libraries, digital library and online libraries and so on. To work in constant change and convert the technological environment in these libraries, there is a need mainly on the part of the library and information professionals to acquire and develop the required skills and competencies to the different methods of information and communication technology skills. The main ICT skills very important for LIS professionals because ICT required to manage libraries include handing of operating systems, use of application software packages, knowledge of databases and programming, acquaintance in webpage design, develop institutional repository, library automation software, technical skills, managerial skills and customizing open source software. So ICT skills need to study among the LIS professionals. This paper mainly discuss the Gender Differences in Information and Communication Technology skills in library and information professionals who are working in the university libraries of selected public sector and private sector by making the sample survey.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Angeline (2019) conducted the engineering LIS professionals today needs to acquire knowledge and skills in ICT as the services of more and more libraries are now cantering around information technology, especially in educational institutions. The study found that the investigate the Internet and Computer Communication Network skills of library professionals. Questionnaire was used to collect data for this research. 190 library professionals participated in the study. Results show an improved computer literacy level for Library Professionals in the study. Jeyshankar, Nachiappan and Lavanya (2018) were studied the post graduate students of Alagappa University, applied their Information Retrieval skills in accessing electronic resources. The samples are collected from the 252 of four faculties' postgraduate students of Alagappa University. With the help of filled questionnaire, the collected data was further analysed by using simple percentage, standard deviations and Chi-Square test. This study mainly focused on information retrieving skill among graduate students of Alagappa University. Female respondents are more compare than male students. It aspires to measure the postgraduate graduates' use and access of searching the information using web tools, techniques and resources. This study finds that female respondents are high information retrieval skills compared to male. This study also emphasis most of the respondents Searching the electronic catalogue (OPAC) through theauthor, title and shelf searches." has highest mean score as far as both male and female respondents 4.54 (S.D. 0.789) and male respondents 4.35 (0.957) are concerned.

Thanuskodi (2015) examined ICT in library activities and services providing new dimensions for teaching, learning and research in higher educational institutions. With the help of ICT tools, it is possible to store, retrieve, disseminate and organize information by creating websites and databases. Information is now published both electronically and by print making it accessible to users according to their

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