

Chapter 10

Reading Habits Among University Students Studying Engineering in the Digital Age

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ABSTRACT

In this study, engineering students from universities all around India will have their reading interests and habits examined. Reading habits have changed as a result of technology; the most popular change is the rise of text reading from computer screens. Teachers and students face a variety of difficulties and opportunities as a result of the widespread use of screen reading. The usage of annotations and other forms of text interaction by engineering students when reading academic publications is examined in this work along with their general reading preferences, habits, and attitudes. The opinions of 109 students who participated in an online survey were examined. The report highlights a number of issues with engineering students' preferences and habits, and how those issues affect their capacity for critical thought. The researcher presented recommendations to encourage reading habits among engineering students in the continually technologically driven environment of today after conducting research to acquire a thorough overview of millennials' reading preferences.

INTRODUCTION

In a digital age, reading interests and habits change quickly. As digital natives, millennials have unlim-

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ited access to materials, including research papers and lecture notes on the internet. Our lives have a significant amount of technological integration. Information overload is technology's most significant negative effect. Information transfer is only a click away. Most traditional information transfer through printed documents has been supplanted by online data. This modification has impacted both what and how individuals read. The outcomes of a survey carried out by the researchers found that the students' reading habits have shifted away from reading on paper and more toward reading on electronic devices, specifically the internet. Reading provides the foundation for the growth of other key language talents like as speaking, listening, and writing, and its importance cannot be overstated.

Teachers shouldn't disregard this change in students' reading preferences. Younger people are rapidly embracing digital formats for information and pleasure, according to Karim, Hasan, and Shahriza (2006). Liu (2005) adds that there is an increase in the amount of time people spend using electronic reading media and that the new reading preferences are influenced by the quick expansion of digital information available. These findings provide evidence that the advent of the digital age has already had an effect on people's reading habits. The purpose of this study is to evaluate how current reading habits, behaviours, and attitudes of engineering students in the digital age affect their capacity for critical thought.

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the reading preferences
2. To find out the library attendance frequency
3. To find out the role of technology in reading habits

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- In the digital age, what books do engineering students prefer to read?
- In a typical week, do college students prefer reading online content over offline content?
- What sort of content do engineering students typically read online?
- How closely related are the habits of engineering students to their demographic characteristics, including age, gender, location, economic situation, educational attainment, JEE scores, work status, and personal online time?

METHODOLOGY

Participants

The data for the study were gathered using a survey methodology. 99 replies to the survey were obtained based on the 109 samples that were selected. University students from Chennai, India's Engineering Vellore Institute of Technology made up the questionnaire's participants. On campus, the sample was chosen at random. This university is well known for preparing professionals in engineering, science, and technology through its 4-year, 5-year integrated, and graduate programmes. They consisted of 109 responders, of which 34 were men and 75 were women. They were primarily second-year students,

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