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## Reading Habits Among Under Graduate Students in Nursing Colleges of Kanchipuram District in the Digital Era: A Study

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### Abstract

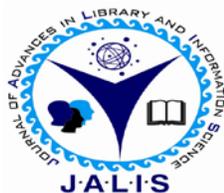
*The paper is an attempt to ascertain the reading habits among under graduate students, and their preferences regarding the sources of information in the digital era of the selected Arts & Science colleges situated in Kanchipuram district. It is found through the study that reading habits have not become less or minimized but has changed to the E-reading pattern because of the availability of E-Resources anywhere at any time beyond the boundaries of the traditional libraries. This in turn helps to increase the reading habits of readers. 225 questionnaires were distributed to under graduate students and 183 questionnaires were received. A suggestion from the users says that the reading habits should be inculcated in children from the initial stage of education. At undergraduate level also there should be a compulsory library hour where students get acquainted with the library resources and library services..*

### Keywords

Library Resources; E-books; E-Journals; Reading habits, library services,; Nursing colleges.

### Electronic access

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## Introduction

In the last decade computers, cell phones and the internet access have become widely available. Such increased availability of technology may lead to changes in reading quality and reading habits. Quality of reading includes not only reading comprehension, but also the pleasure of reading.<sup>1</sup>

In the digital era has brought with it publishing in electronic form. This is an era of E-books, E-journals. The prediction of a paperless society made by F.W. Lancaster in 1978 has not come true. According to him, all publishing would be in electronic form in 2000. But we have witnessed that owing to various advantages the print medium is still popular. Instead of eliminating paper information technologies have combination of images, sound, text and graphics in what is referred to as multimedia conveys knowledge in a highly synthetic and powerful manner.<sup>2</sup>

A Study the positive relationships that exist between the amounts of time spent in recreational reading and academic achievement.<sup>3</sup> Reading is an important and most significant activity in a society. It is important for people to acquire knowledge and information. Even though information may appear in many different media people still read.<sup>4</sup>

## Objectives

1. To determine the reading habits among the students.
2. To find out the reading resources used by the students.
3. Reasons for the change in the reading habits of the students.
4. To assess the level of satisfaction of reading in the digital era.
5. To find the measures to improve the reading habits among the students.

## Methodology

Information collected through well – designed questionnaires was distributed to the under graduated Arts and Science students of the selected colleges situated in Kanchipuram district. Totally 225 questionnaires were distributed to the students and 183 questionnaires was received. So sample size is 183.

## Gender- Wise Distribution of Respondents

There are 59 male students and 124 female students who responded to the questionnaire, which constitutes 32.24% male students and 67.76% female students of the total population of the respondents.

**Table 1:** Gender- wise distribution of respondents

Gender	No.of Students	Percentage %
Male	59	32.24%
Female	124	67.76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100</b>

### Frequency of Visits to the Library

The major of students visit the library daily which forms 36.06% of the total students, 22.95% students visit the library twice per week, about 11.47% students visit the library once per week. About 14.21% students visit the library twice in a month, 9.29 students visited the library once per month and about 6.02% students do not visit at all.

**Table 2:** Frequency of Visits to the Library

Frequency of Visits	No.of Students	Percentage
Daily	66	36.06%
Twice per week	42	22.95%
Once per week	21	11.47%
Twice in a month	26	14.21%
Once in a month	17	9.29%
Never visit the library	11	6.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Time Spent for Reading in the Library

Majority of the students said that there is no fixed time for reading. They constitute about 41.53% of the total population of the respondents. About 34.42% of students read for one hour, about 14.76% of students read for two hours and only 9.29% students read for more than 2 hours.

**Table .3:** Time Spent for Reading in the Library

Time Spent for Reading in the Library	No.of Students	Percentage %
One hour	63	34.42%
Two hours	27	14.76%

More than two hours	17	9.29%
No fixed time	76	41.53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Library Resources Used by the Students

About 28.96% of students to visit the library to read text books and reference books 19.67% of students visit the library read newspapers, 9.84% of students to read magazines, 22.95% of students to visit for Competitive exam books, 5.46% of students to visit the library to read other reference materials like dictionaries, encyclopaedias, autobiographies etc. 13.12% of students to visit the library to read journals.

**Table .4:** Library Resources Used by the Students

Library Resources	No. of Students	Percentage %
News Papers	36	19.67%
Magazines	18	9.84
Competitive exam books	42	22.95%
Text books & Reference books	53	28.96
Journals	24	13.12
Others	10	5.46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Purpose of Reading

The majority of the students read to prepare for their study purpose which constitutes 47.551% of the total population of the respondents. 18.03% of respondents for recreational purpose, 14.75% of students read to upgrade their knowledge. And 19.67% of student's read to prepare for competitive exams.

**Table 5:** Purpose of Reading

Purpose of Reading	No.of Students	Percentage %
Recreational Purpose	33	18.03%
Upgrade their knowledge	27	14.75%
Prepare for competitive exams	36	19.67
Study purpose	87	47.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Effect on Reading Habits in the Digital Era

The majority of the students observed that the reading habits have changed to a great extent in the digital era which forms 53.55% of the total population of respondents. About 34.43% of students felt that reading habits have been affected to some extent in the digital era. About 6.56 of each said that they never say and 2.18% reading habits are not affected at all.

**Table 6:** Effect on Reading Habits in the Digital Era

Effect on Reading Habits	No.of Students	Percentage
To a great extent	98	53.55
To some extent	63	34.43
Never say	12	6.56
Limited extent	04	2.18
Not affected at all	06	3.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Reasons for the Change in Reading Habits

Most of the students 37.16% felt that change in reading habits in the digital era is because information is easy to get through digital devices. About 13.11% of students felt that information is accurately accessed on the internet through search engines by using appropriate key words. About 16.39% of students felt that speed of accessing required information through internet is also a reason for changing the reading habits from traditional print media to E-reading and students equally felt that feasibility to refer and access the information from anywhere is the reason for the change in reading habits. 13.66% of students felt that time are saved in acquiring the information electronically in the digital era.

**Table 7:** Reasons for the Change in Reading Habits

Reasons for changing in Reading Habits	No.of Students	Percentage
Speedy	30	16.39
Accuracy	24	13.11
Easy to find it	68	37.16
Time saved for us	25	13.66
Facility to access anywhere	36	19.68
Any other	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Level of satisfaction in Using Digital Resources

The majority of the students who were satisfied and highly satisfied are 75% and 49.18% and 26.23% respectively. 13.80% of students were said that they never say. About 8.20% of students said that they are not satisfied with the experience of reading the digital resources and only 3.82% of the students are not highly satisfied with the digital resources.

**Table 8:** Level of satisfaction in Using Digital Resources

Level of Satisfaction in Using Digital Resources	No.of Students	Percentage
Highly Satisfied	48	26.23
Satisfied	90	49.18
Never Say	23	12.57
Highly Not satisfied	07	3.82
Not satisfied	15	8.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Findings

1. The majority percentage of students is visit the library every day to read study purpose but a limited number of students to read magazines.
2. Most of the students agree that e-resources are feasible to be finding easy.
3. Majority of the students said that there is no fixed time for reading in the library because in the digital age the e-resources are accessible at anywhere.
4. Though half of the population used for study agrees that reading habits are diminishing in the digital era but a considerable percentage of the selected population still believe that reading habits are not negatively affected in the digital era.

### Suggestions

1. Reading habits should be inculcated since the primary education level by arranging story time, library visits etc.
2. Library orientation programme should be done at the beginning of the academic year for the new students.
3. Library resources should be updated regularly.

4. Availability of more e-resources in the library.

### **Conclusion**

Reading habits has been changed in the digital era and are now moving towards the e-reading culture. Developments in the ICT and its implication in the library field facilitate us to get access to the e-resources which have proved user-friendly. Readers prefer e-resources for their nature of feasibility in referring anywhere at any time. As per the fourth law of library science set by Dr.S.R Ranganathan save the time of the reader, e-resources save a lot of time of the users in finding the information needed by him/her. In the digital era we have changed the pattern of accessing the information. Also in turn in the digital era we have increased our reading limits because we can get access to the information at a single click.

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