
**Information Literacy Assessment of Students in
ATREYA Ayurvedic Medical College & Research
Centre, Doddaballapur, Karnataka**

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Abstract

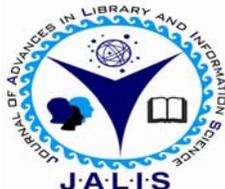
This article presents the results of a survey conducted at Atreya Ayurvedic Medical College & research Centre, Doddaballapur, Karnataka. The purpose of the study was to assess the Ayurvedic medical student's information literacy skills. To collect data from the respondents a structured questionnaire was used. The major findings of the study are most of the respondents visit the college library frequently and most prefer documents are text books. The study also identified the student's lack of knowledge in using Boolean operators for searching, and legal and ethical use of information. To incorporate information literacy among the Ayurvedic medical students the investigator suggests the library authorities to conduct an information literacy awareness programs with co-operation of teaching staff of the college

Keywords

Information literacy, Ayurvedic medical students,
user survey.

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INTRODUCTION

The Atreya Ayurvedic Medical College is affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science, Bangalore, recommended by CCIM and approved by Ayush (Government of India). The Atreya Ayurvedic Medical College offers the Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (B.A.M.S) degree course to 10+2 students. To become an Ayurvedic Doctor, the B.A.M.S Degree is the only qualification in Ayurveda that is recognized by the Central Council of Indian Medicine, Statutory body under Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family. The College is dedicated in providing the highest quality education, health care, and research in the field of Ayurveda.

DEFINITION OF INFORMATION LITERACY

There are several definitions given by many scholars on Information Literacy. The term of "Information Literacy" was first defined by Paul Zurkowski in 1974. Information literacy was defined by variety of ways, Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) a division of American Library Association (ALA) has been active in promoting information Literacy, defined "Information Literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information" Lupton says Information literacy is a way of learning through engaging with information. Information literacy includes "library research skills" and "IT literacy" but it is broader than these. Information Literacy is not just finding and presenting information, it is about higher order analysis, synthesis, critical thinking and problem solving. It involves seeking and using information for independent learning and lifelong learning, participative citizenship and social responsibility. Kapitzki advocates in a simple way "Information literacy is about 'learning with and through information' but it should also include 'learning about information and about knowledge.'" Information literacy (IL) is basically an active process of searching and using found information effectively that influences a quality way of life of people in a modern society. The people who become information literate can apply meaningful information to aspects of their lives in personal needs, family matters, working practices, and social responsibilities. Library and information professionals and academics take more of an interest in the IL field over the three past decades to engage

in any of activities in connection with the development of ILs skills in schools, colleges, or universities. It is accepted that students at every educational level have to be roughly prepared to: 1) make their accurate information decisions, 2) seek and locate the right information at the right time, 3) locate appropriate information sources, 4) employ information technology suitable for accessing information materials, and 5) evaluate, analyze, and synthesize content ethically. (Somsaksriborisutakul et al 2012).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are several studies are conducted to assess the information literacy skills among the college students.

Ramakrishna and Valmiki (2004) assess the computer and information literacy among the PG students at Kuvempu University. The study reveals that majority of the respondents opined that computer literacy and information literacy are “very important” for them. Significant percentage of the respondents not able to use internet. Sasikala and Dhanaraj (2010) conducted a study at Andhara University to assess the information literacy skills among science students. It shows that majority of the students are familiar with use of computers, concerning to awareness of citations more than 50% the students do not have knowledge about citation styles. Also reported that majority of the respondents are aware of copyright and its implications. Barbara Jean et al (2013) studied the behavior related to information literacy and found that not all students had satisfactory information literacy skills even at the senior student level. Somsaksriborisutkal et al. (2011) reported the results of a study on student’s information literacy behavior at Chulalongkorn University and they found that students always used search engines when looking for information for doing their assignments. The study also found that a significant aspect, 141 CU undergraduates never used librarians as a source of information. Peter Anafo and Christopher Wilson (2014) studied the information literacy of the under graduates students at Ashley University, Ghana. The results of the study show that students had difficulty in identifying the citation to a journal article. The study concluded that majority of the students not able to access information because of lack of skills in terms of concept identification, search strategies, information sources and ethical and legal use of information.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

The central library of the Atreya Ayurvedic Medical College housed in separate building. It is well equipped of good number of books, periodicals, journals and research materials. The library is kept open from morning 9.00am to evening 5.00 pm on all working days except Sunday and other holidays. The library provides internet facility, HELNET consortia, and also wi-fi is available in the campus. It provides the students an opportunity to do their own research and learn more in their own pace.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is tried to find out the information literacy skills among the Ayurvedic medical students of Atreya Ayurvedic Medical College & research Centre, Doddaballapur.. The study was carried out under the following objectives:

1. To know the students frequency of visit to the library
2. To identify the most frequently preferred documents in the library by the students
3. To identify the competency level of information literacy among the students
4. To identify the areas in which the students lacking information literacy skills.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study covers only the information literacy assessment of the Ayurvedic medical students of Aitreya Ayurvedic Medical College & research Centre library, Doddaballapur, Karnataka. The limitation of the study lies in the fact that the student library users of the college and the generalization beyond this population is limited.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population of the study was Ayurvedic Medical students of Atreya Medical college Library; Doddaballapur, Karnataka. The students of all five year course Ayurvedic medicine are two hundred only they are consider core population for this study. Simple random technique was used to collect the required data from the respondents.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND DATA COLLECTION

Based on the objectives of the study a structured questionnaire was designed by the investigator to collect the data from the respondents. The questionnaire contains closed ended questions, in simple English language. The questionnaires were distributed among the eighty students (40% of the population) personally by the investigator, and received responses from forty seven only. The response rate was 58.75% .The data which were collected through the questionnaire were tabulated and analyzed by simple statistical techniques.

ANALYSIS

Table 1: Gender wise distribution of respondents

Gender	Total	%
Male	20	42.55
Female	27	57.45
Total	47	100

Table-1 shows the gender wise distribution of respondents. Out of the forty seven respondents of the present study, the numbers of female respondents were 27 (57.45 %) than the male counterpart twenty (42.55%).

Table 2: Frequency of visit to the College Library

S.No	Frequency	Total	%
1	Daily	37	78.72
2	Twice in a week	9	19.14
3	Once in a week	0	0
4	Occasionally	1	2.14
	Total	47	100

The respondents were asked frequency of visit to the library. The results indicate that majority of the respondents (78.72%) are visit the library daily followed by (19.14%) twice in a week. Only 2.14% of the respondents visit the library occasionally. The findings show that the students visit the college library most frequently.

Table 3: Frequently preferred documents by the students

S.No	Document category	Total	%
1	Text Books	36	76.59
2	periodicals	4	8.51
3	News papers	3	6.38
4	Reference books	4	8.51
	Total	47	100

The Table-3 shows the responses from the students about frequently used documents in their college library. Most of the respondents (76.59%) are using text books to meet their course work, followed by Periodicals and reference books were used by 8.51%, and news papers (6.38%).

Table 4: Methods used by the students to found books in the Library

S. No	Methods using by the students	Total	%
1	Searching the book shelves directly	1	2.12
2	Taking assistance from the library staff	30	63.84
3	Taking assistance from friends	12	25.53
4	No response	4	8.51
	Total	47	100

The above table-4 indicates the responses to the question methods preferred by the students to found books in their college library. It revealed that majority (63.84%) of the respondents prefer to took assistance from staff , followed by 25.53% of the respondents took the assistance from their friends.

Table 5: Best sources for collecting background information

S.No	Source	Total	%
1	Journal Article	1	2.12
2	Book	34	72.34
3	Encyclopedia	10	21.27
4	Other sources	2	4.27
	Total	47	100

The above table represents the data relating to students knowledge on choosing best source for collecting back ground information on a topic. The data reveals that majority of the respondents (72.34%) opined that books were best source, Only 21.27% stated that encyclopedia is the best source for collecting back ground information on a topic where as 2.12% expressed their opinion journal article was best source to collect the information. The responses from the students' shows that majority of them are not having proper understanding of the importance of encyclopedia.

Table 6: Usage of internet to collect information for study purpose

S.No	Response	Total	%
1	YES	40	85.2
2	NO	7	14.8
	Total	47	100

The present study also aimed at knowing about the extent of use of internet by the Ayurvedic medical students for academic purpose. The responses reveal that majority 85.20% opined that they use internet for collecting information for their studies. Only 14.80% responded negatively.

Table 7: Awareness of using Boolean Operators

S.No	Boolean operators	Total	%
1	AND	25	53.19
2	NOT	0	0
3	OR	6	12.76
4	No idea	16	34.05
	Total	47	100

To assess the search techniques among the students the question was asked "which combination of key words would retrieve the greatest number of records". The responses for the question are presented in the above table. The data reveal that majority 53.19% of the respondents opined that AND operator would help to retrieve the greatest number of records. Only 12.76 % are answer correctly. This indicates that majority of the respondents are not having knowledge of using Boolean operators in searching the information.

Table8: Awareness on creating a safest password

S.No	Password	Total	%
1	Ad*71?	31	65.95
2	asdfg	6	12.76
3	1234	8	17.04
4	Manjunatha	2	4.25
	Total	47	100

The importance of creating a strong, and secure password is essential and it will help keep our identity safe on the internet. While attempting to ascertain the level of knowledge that the students have to create secure and strong passwords. The responses in the above table show that majority of the respondents (65.95%) are choose correct answer.

While 17.04% opined that 1234 is a safest one. This shows the students knowledge regarding the creation of secure and safe password is quite good.

Table 9: Awareness on Plagiarism

S.No	Correct meaning of plagiarism	Total	%
1	Presenting the work of others as your own	5	10.63
2	In correct use of foot notes	8	17.02
3	To copy another work by citing the source	3	6.38
4	No idea	31	65.97
	Total	47	100

To know the students awareness about plagiarism the question was asked. The responses show that majority of the respondents (65.97%) have no idea about this word. Only 10.63% answer the question in correct way. The finding shows that students have lack of knowledge in this area.

Table10: Awareness on Copy right information

S.No	Correct term relating to copy right	Total	%
1	Copy right	19	40.42
2	Fair use	5	6.38
3	Freedom of information	9	19.16
4	No idea	16	34.04
	Total	47	100

In order to know the students awareness on copyright, the data shows from the above table-10 that majority 40.42% of the respondents aware of copyright information.34.04% have no idea about this, remaining students given the wrong answers. Nearly 60% of the respondents have not full idea about the copy right.

Table 11: Awareness of Citations

S.No	Sources	Total	%
1	Book	9	19.16
2	Journal article	20	42.55
3	A portion of a book	0	0
4	No idea	18	38.29
	Total	47	100

In all types of scholarly and research writing it is necessary to document the source work with citations. For that purpose knowledge regarding

citation is also an important aspect of information literacy. In order to know the awareness of citations among the students the question was asked. The data in the above table-11 shows that majority 42.55% of the respondents answer correctly, rest of the respondents doesn't have the correct idea regarding to citations.

Table 12: Students response on attending a course on Information literacy

S.No	Response	Total	%
1	YES	4	8.52
2	NO	43	91.48
	Total	47	100

The above table presents the data relating to students response on attending any formal course on information literacy in their previous courses. The data clearly indicates that majority of the students (91.48%) had not undergone any such type of course. Only 8.52% opined that they attended such course.

Table 13: Students opinion on usefulness of Information literacy program

S.No	Opinion	Total	%
1	YES	39	90.69
2	NO	4	9.30
	Total	43	100

The table clearly indicates the student's opinion on usefulness of information literacy program. Most of the respondents 90.69% opined that they have benefit to participate or attend information literacy awareness program, if it was organized by the college library. Only 9.30% of the respondents responded negatively.

CONCLUSION

Information literacy is an important component in the information age. Acquiring IL skills at higher education is required given the fact that lifelong learning has become a must and the information widely used in teaching, learning, training and research activities is steadily growing in electronic environments.(Sofia2011). The present study aimed to assess the information literacy skills of the Ayurvedic medical students of Atreya Ayurvedic Medical College & research Centre, Doddaballapur, Karnataka. The findings revealed that most of the students visit the library daily and their frequent use of library resources were "Text Books". It indicates

that the students visit the college library frequently to collect reading material for their study. The analysis of the response to the question 'best source for collecting background information' majority of them may not have given right answer. This shows the lack of knowledge regarding the reference sources among the students.

The findings of the study show that most of the students used internet for academic purpose for collecting information for their course work .From this is it has been cleared that ,internet is a power full tool to meet the information needs of the students. When it comes to use of Boolean operators only 12.76% correctly answered the question, this shows the lack of knowledge among the students in use of Boolean operators. In order to ascertain the level of awareness among the students in creating a safe and secure password one question was asked, the findings shows they are quite good to create safe and secure pass words. The present study also gathered details related to plagiarism, copyright and citations. Results revealed that majority of the students are lacking knowledge on ethical and legal use of information. As Dubicki (2013) rightly concluded that " IL skills are vital to conducting effective research in students' personal and professional lives when they leave the college campus. Therefore, librarians need to continue to make progress in collaborating with faculty and other organisations on campus to incorporate more reflective learning and discover more effective techniques of elevating IL competencies."

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above findings the investigator was try to recommend the following suitable measures to improve the information literacy among the students.

- 1.The College library should conduct an orientation program for the students especially for the new entrants on how to use and what information contained in various reference sources viz .Encyclopedias, Directories, Yearbooks, Dictionaries, Almanacs, News Digests, thesis and dissertations etc.
2. The College management should provide sufficient infrastructure and co-operation to organize information literacy awareness program.
3. Collaboration with the faculty members the librarian should design information literacy course module. Pedagogic designs and learning and teaching

strategies most likely to support students in developing their information literacy.

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