A Study of Electronic Resources and Reading Habit of Graduate Students: Hypothetical Framework

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ABSTRACT

Reading remains a critical component of everybody's life as it opens door to knowledge repository. We can say that it a necessary tool for lifetime learning and it is specially a resource for sustained learning. Anyone can acquire knowledge utilizing reading tools viz; newspaper, books, computer, the internet, etc. achievement of quality education can be contented using excellent reading habit. For general development of the student reading plays a vital role as it acquire knowledge. Now a day in this e-era everything is online and due to drastic changes in the technologies and availability of e-resources with least cost. It is discovered that reading habits of library books are decreasing so there is need to improve reading habits of the college students as due to techno savvy users. This study will examine the reading habit of the graduate students. It will be study regarding identifying reasons, and purpose of e-resources.

Keywords

Internet, Reading instrument, graduate students, electronic resources.

Introduction

Reading means seeking information, knowledge through written words. Reading is also interactive session by thought of supreme philosophers of present, past and future generation. Reading is the most essential elements of linguistic and is important instrument for all-time learning. It is also one of the resources in continued education for acquiring new skills and knowledge and for acquiring information through newspaper, radio, book, television, computer, internet, online repositories etc. Reading also useful in shaping personality of an individual and for creating new ideas and developing proper thinking. (Kumara & Sampath Kumar, 2019)

Reading remains a critical component of everybody's life as it opens the door to knowledge repository. We can say that it's necessary tool for lifetime learning and it is exclusively a resource for sustained learning. Anyone can acquire knowledge utilizing reading tools, viz; newspaper, books, computers, the internet, etc. achievement of quality education can be contented using good reading habit. For overall development of the student reading plays a vital role as it acquire knowledge. Now a day in this e-era everything is online and due to dramatic changes in the technologies and its usage e-resources are available and with the least cost. It is discovered that the reading habits of library books are decreasing so there is a need to improve reading habits of the college students as due to techno savvy users. Thus, this study is about finding reasons, purposes of e-resources on reading habit of the students.

Literature Review:

(Chettri & Rout, 2013) focused on reading habit as important component of human life for achievement of lifelong learning, gaining knowledge. Good reading habit leads to healthy intellectual development, which enable person to achieve practical efficacy. In this paper author focused on interest, parents, librarian, publishers and other stakeholders as factors influencing reading habit of students. Also, peer influence, personal interest, favourable attitude is the most important factor for reading habit. Few reasons are found that students are not reading books as condition of libraries was not encouraging as old book collections, preferences to chat, listen to radio, scarce reading resources in library are major reasons found by the literature survey of the paper.

(Akpokodje & Ukwuoma, 2016) evaluated influence of e-books on motivation for reading amongst students in Nigeria higher institutes. The author found that most of the students were aware of e-books, finally paper was concluded with suggesting universities to provide broadband internet access, and sufficient facility for all students.

(Kumar, 2017) focused on reading habits amongst students of Pharmacy College, purpose of reading, material used for reading, problems faced by students in library. Reading direct students in developing their career and skill, lifelong learning. In today's era library reading habit affected due to availability of e-resources. Library professionals plays important role in developing reading habits of students.

(Bala & Lal, 2016) studied a case and enlighten about impact of digital era on reading culture of the students. Author stated problem to study reading patterns, library resources awareness and e-resources impact on reading culture. Author found eBook, e-journals, e-thesis, Krishiprabha, business source elite, Indiastat.com, commodities database are available e-resources in their university. Here researcher found in his literature survey that e-journals and online databases are mostly accessed by students. Finally, author stated that there is an influence of e-resources on users accessing information from library.

(Kumara & Sampath Kumar, 2018) examines influence of ICT on reading habits of the student at Tumkur University. It is found that high positive attitude towards reading books. Library conducts study circle, debate clubs, seminars, easy compaction, quiz compaction to attract students to read library books.

Research Methodology:

Objectives:

- To study and understand the usage of e-resources as a reading instrument.
- To explore reading habits of graduate students
- To identify the reasons and purpose of e-resources.
- To design hypothetical framework of e-resources.

Research Design:

It contains the design of the hypothetical framework of e-resources as a reading instrument. With literature review researcher will design framework which will be useful to identify usage of print media as well as electronic media as a reading instrument.

➢ **Usage of e-resources as a reading instrument**

Electronic resource (e-resource) is nothing but anything which can get online using the internet. These online contents are available in the electronic format and hence known as E-resources. There are several forms of electronic resources i.e., online-journals, e-books, websites, online databases, email, e-library, e-shop, e-learning, search engine, CD-ROM, portable computer databases, diskettes etc. These may be freely available online, licensed resources, offline (e.g., offline dictionary) or available on websites.

Today, many colleges subscribing electronic resources such as e-journals, e-books as a reading instrument to provide up-to-date information for users using available network infrastructure. Now many journals are available online and print versions. There are various e-journal providers via: Elsevier, Science Direct, Springer Emerald, ASME, ACM, ASCE etc. providing access to online journals. Similarly, there are various e-databases available online via: EBSCO, J-Gate, DOAJ, ABI/ Inform, ProQuest, Web of Science, Scifinder Scholar etc.

As e-resources can be easily accessible using computer / smart phone, its usage is increased. There is no time restriction to access e-contents i.e., it is available anytime and from anywhere with least cost. Many mobile apps are also available using these apps one can get information, articles, journals, magazines online digital/ electronic format. It can be used for learning, reading, studying, and research purposes. Reading is a multifaceted process consisting of recognition of word, comprehension, motivation and fluency. All this can be improved using online/ electronic resources. Today's trend of usage of e-resource is increasing due to techno savvy users. One can say literate those, who know technology and keep up-to-date with changing technology. With the help of a variety of apps, modules, tools, videos, audios, multimedia any one

can easily improve their reading skills and upgrade them with/ as per current technological requirements. Now in this COVID-19 situation everything is online. Those can update themselves with this changing situation can get updated with the current environment, as it is today's need. In these circumstances every student is accessing electronic resources and learning using electronic information, knowledge, so everyone is now using electronic resources for learning as well as for reading.

➢ **Reading habits of graduate students:**

Reading is a development and communication activity, and it should go into a habit to yield results. The significant time for development of the habit is the childhood and youth phase, where the spiritual and physical changes are practiced rigorously. Reading helps in the development of human personality amongst students. That is, education system is a time period in which a concentrated and organized association with knowledge and the school is formed. Therefore, for improving reading habits a procedure should be considering for childhood and youth based on various topographies.

The major concentrated stage of the recognized education in the academic time period is the time period when youth develop the reading habit. This time period is a beneficial/ valuable procedure in terms of the circumstances shaped for the pleasure of desire, compassion and realization.

Though, it is a tough procedure to gain, progress and convert the reading habits. Teachers, authors / writers and librarians have an immense role in this procedure, as they support tutoring by choosing suitable books. Reading habits is defined as the procedure of understanding this accomplishment as a constant and arranged, critical/evaluative procedure as an outcome of the individual's insight by reading as a foundation of need and desire.

Creating awareness about reading books as well as what to read in early years of learning is significant in education. Objective of attaining a long-term reading habit is the purpose of education system. In accordance to provide students, the practice of reading, their reading abilities essential to be enhanced. Numerous benchmarks are used to define the level of reading practice that an individual has. The most extensively recognised benchmarks are, in common, the quantity of books read in a year.

The utmost significant way to acquire reading habits is to offer easy right of entry to libraries and e-resources. Students will be able to simply access the data/ information they require to perform a significant role in acquiring their reading habit.

There are several social aspects affecting reading habits of the students/individual. The key reasons are the home atmosphere, the school atmosphere, the teacher/ instructors/mentors, the frequency or habit of using the library/ e-resources

➢ **Reasons and purpose of e-resources:**

Table1. Reasons of E-resource usage

Reasons	(Sharma, 2009)	(Ameyaw & Anto, 2019)	(Satpathy & Rout, 2010)	(Egberongbe, 2011)	(NAZIR, 2015)	(Lakpathi et al., 2019)
Time Saving	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Ease of Use	✓			✓	✓	
More informative	✓			✓	✓	
Less expensive	✓			✓	✓	
More useful	✓			✓		
Joy		✓				
Recreation		✓				
Relaxation		✓				
Information and Knowledge development		✓				
Availability			✓			
Simultaneous usage			✓			
Easy accessibility			✓			
Downloading facility			✓			
Easy communication			✓			
Archival Facility			✓			
Easy to search						✓
Faster Search						✓
Multiple User Access						✓
Available in multiple formats						✓
24x7 Availability						✓
Easy to Read						✓

Table2. Purposes of E-resource usage

Purpose	(Akanda et al., 2013)	(Satpathy & Rout, 2010)	(Habiba & Chowdhury, 2012)	(E-resources, 2007)	(State & Eluwole, 2017)	(Selvaraj, 2017)	(Moses M. Naga, 2016)	(Shrestha, 2008)	(Tariq & Zia, n.d.)	(Owolabi, 2016)	(Daramola, 2016)	(Dass & Jayaraman, 2014)	(Lakpathi et al., 2019)	(Girakaduwa, 2019)
To Pass Examination	✓				✓									
Study and Research	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reading Journals	✓													
Download software	✓													
Discussion	✓													
E-mail	✓	✓												
Entertainment		✓												
Paper writing		✓												
Seminar		✓												

|														
Learning			✓											
Current Information			✓		✓								✓	
Publishing articles / books				✓										
Finding information in area of specialization				✓										
Assignment / Seminar presentation				✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Up to date with subject				✓		✓			✓					✓
For Academic					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
For personal knowledge					✓		✓							
To be able communicate with friends and colleagues					✓					✓		✓		
To source for materials in writing long essay					✓									
For innovative practices						✓								
Preparation of Examination							✓							✓
News								✓			✓			
Health								✓						
Entertainment								✓						
Professional Development									✓					
Online application / registration										✓				
Source for material for project writing										✓				
Personal										✓				
To access e-mail											✓			
Leisure											✓			
General Information												✓		
To update knowledge													✓	
For general information													✓	
To learn new things around the world													✓	
To get aware of information														✓

Hypothetical Framework:
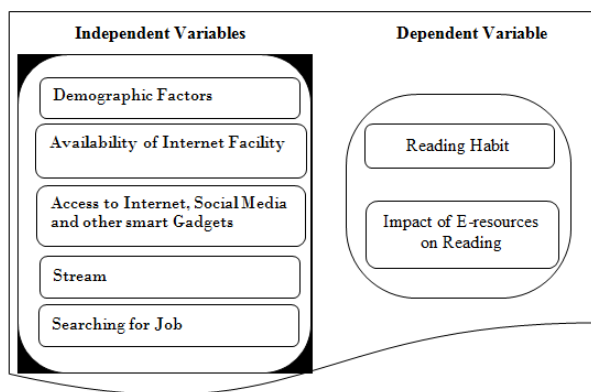
Figure1. Hypothetical Framework of Impact of E-resources on Reading habit

Conclusion and Recommendations for UG Students:

The proposed study has concluded that the usage of e-resources caused an incredible effect on the academic performance of the graduate students. Today's drift of practice of electronic-resource is growing due to easily and fewer inexpensive available online resources and techie users.One can say well-educated are those, who recognize knowhow and keep informed with adapting technology. During pandemic COVID-19 situation has change, learning scenario all over the world. Because of this precedence, every student has 24*7 access to online e-resources for learning and reading. The most intense phase of the predictable education in the academic journey of every individual, when youth achieve the reading behaviours' through extremely tough and essential methods. This learning journey is beneficial as well as a valuable procedure in terms of the circumstances moulded for the pleasure of desire, consideration, and comprehension.

The intended purpose was to wisely determine how active users investigate and carefully choose e-resources and instantly recognize possible ways the reference library could undoubtedly help to progressively improve privileged access to e-resources through its web site. This published article outlines the usability of e-resources for reading, writing, and research and how Undergraduate students find and select databases as well as user behaviour, and makes commendations for increasing student use of library e-resources.

• All available digital apps, automated tools, audio and videos, hypermedia, aids are easily available to improve readers, reading habits and develop them as per present technical necessities. Therefore, if we want that student to avail an extensive range of e-resources, it is vital that we impart them to properly identify the valuable resources that will be appropriate for them. As the product diversity of our e-resources gets thinner, vendors and publishers consolidate, and the service providers market is open for end-users, this strategy may help for easier adoption of e-resources. Generally, students get a link with one e-resource, and that primary e-resource helps them to get connected with various databases and they reminisce or recall both at their point of need.

• Most of the time students faithfully follow their honorary professor's instructions and naturally take their necessary guidance to do so. Students look at their professors as an expert and many times those professors play the role of a brand ambassador to publicise the specific database and influence their usage of e-resources and students to follow them with full-heartedly. Otherwise, students will typically use their familiar sources like Google. Therefore, we can adequately consider the most operative way to undoubtedly get students to use library e-resources is through definite endorsements by their creative professors.

• For a better way to make use of e-resources by students, professors and research scholars, the Institutes Library has to take constructive measures to enhance the utility through more orientation, training programmes and workshops. Many academic institutes have to subscribe liberally, to make available e-resources, for their students such as e-journals, e-books, and databases, like "EBSCO, J-Gate, DOAJ, ABI/Inform, ProQuest, Web of Science, Scifinder Scholar, etc." Experienced "teachers, Authors/writers, and librarians", plays a gigantic role in this academic journey of students, as they guide and support the reading habits building training by suggesting appropriate books for individuals.

The past literature review describes major purpose to use e-resources by students for project work as well as assignments and for their personal knowledge, however, faculty members are using e-resources to keep themselves informed about current affairs, more subject knowledge related with their subjects, research work, research articles publications through conferences and seminars. And the major reasons to use e-resources is time-saving, ease of use, more informative, less expensive and more useful. The purpose of attaining a long-term reading habit would be agreeing to the determination of achieving satisfactory reading abilities

Acknowledgment:

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