

## Information Literacy : The Need and Importance in College Library

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### ABSTRACT

With the advent of information and communication technology in the twenty-first century, enormous changes have occurred in higher education, libraries, and information centres to which the library and information profession is no exception. Every student is expected to adapt sophisticated information gathering techniques to locate, organise, evaluate, and use information effectively in order to be successful in their individual endeavours in today's changing complex of globalization and Information explosion in the higher education sector and the College environment. The Information Literacy Programme teaches students how to use information effectively in the current educational system and prepares them to deal with contemporary learning obstacles by teaching them information literacy skills. The notion of Information Literacy (IL) has become increasingly popular among the academic fraternity of India's higher education system. The goal of the IL is to raise awareness among individuals and organisations about how machine operating systems may aid in locating, accessing, analysing, and getting data and documents required for problem-solving and decision-making. The IL assists library users in developing fundamental skills in information use, which have become a must for everyone who wishes to participate effectively in information technology society today. The importance of IL programmes is that they bridge the skills and knowledge gaps between library and information professionals and college students, as well as acting as activators of the lifelong learning process, which has become a necessity in today's world. Information literacy is a comprehensive notion that encompasses information skills, ICT skills, library skills, problem-solving and cognitive abilities, as well as the attitudes and values that allow student learners to function well in the information landscape.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Information literacy is also a series of skills that give students a basis for academic coursework, job performance, citizenship, and lifetime learning. The increase in quantity of information from all sources of information, such as various sorts of papers, media, and the Internet, has raised concerns about the authenticity, legitimacy, and dependability of information. This ambiguous quality and finite quantity of information, which has caused significant obstacles to information users and information science experts, can be addressed to a large extent by IL programmes and skills gained by users during their education.

## II. DEFINITION

“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”.

### **What is information literacy?**

The American Library Association defines information literacy as a collection of skills that enable people to identify when they need information and to find, analyse, and use it effectively. While information literacy is frequently discussed on college campuses in relation to conducting library research for papers, annotated bibliographies, and other types of school assignments, we use and require information in every part of our life. Consider all of the unofficial research we conduct on a daily basis. We check for movie and book reviews, YouTube how-to videos, product reviews, and so on. We check up how to fill out a field on our tax forms, job advertisement and interview tips, and how to spell or describe an unknown word or phrase on Google. We all have information needs, and information literacy is defined as the ability to effectively recognise and address those needs. It's also important to be able to tell the difference between good and bad information. The American Library Association suggests six ways to think about information literacy. The six ways are as follows: authority, according to the Association is constructed and contextual; it sees creation of information as a process, it held that information has a value and regard research as an inquiry, scholarship as conversation and searching as a strategic exploration.

### **Benefits of Information Literacy in Colleges Library**

The main advantage of IL programmes for students at academic colleges is that they provide valuable skills and training, which leads to more effective and efficient use of information sources and databases for improved educational outcomes. In addition, the IL has a number of advantages for students, including the following:

- IL assists students in exploring and learning about various types of resources, including both print and electronic media, as well as how to select the appropriate sources for various activities and actions.
- IL assists students in developing the capacity to analyse, assess, and extract information from a variety of sources, as well as selecting the most accurate and dependable sources of information.
- IL assists students in developing competence in developing strategies for discovering and accessing essential information; and
- IL assists students in developing the capacity to effectively organise, apply, and share information. This competence comprises accurate citation, excellent language use, copyright respect, and plagiarism avoidance.
- IL motivates students to become independent and lifelong learners by assisting them in developing the ability to synthesise and expand on existing information, thereby contributing to and creating new knowledge.
- The key to empowerment, development, and enjoyment is information literacy.

### **Components of information Literacy**

Lokhande and Gadge lay out the following components of information literacy:

**Basic Literacy:** Reading and writing, speaking and listening, counting and calculating, perception drawing.

**Library Literacy:** Library literacy is too important to every student to understand how the library can assist them.

**Media Literacy:** Understanding the many types of media and the various reasons for which they can be employed is referred to as media literacy.

**Technology literacy,** like basic literacy, technology literacy is a set of skills that can constantly be enhanced, and, like library literacy, students receive technology exposure and education on a case-by-case basis, depending on which teachers they have throughout time.

**Visual Literacy:** It refers to the abilities and knowledge required to view visual and audiovisual materials with scepticism, critical thinking, and knowledge. It is the link between Media literacy and Technology Literacy.

### III. NEED OF INFORMATION LITERACY

In our own lives, too much information might become a barrier. The information barrier is caused by the vast amount of data available, the rapidity with which it arrives from all directions, the necessity to make quick decisions, and the fear that we are making decisions without having all of the information available or that we require. The solution to the information hurdles is information literacy.

Because of ICT, IL is now highly significant, and its use in libraries and information centres is to maximise the use of information resources in teaching, learning, and research. The necessity of the hour is for an information literacy programme. It enables end users to retrieve information according to their requirements.

#### **Role of information literacy in College Library**

Both employees and students in the College Library require information literacy. The purpose of information literacy education is to equip and encourage students to learn about the variety of information resources available in the library. In other words, they should acquire over the course of their studies or through opportunities for professional development.

#### **Library Activities towards Information Literacy**

Information literacy programmes for users should be developed by college librarians. The following activities can be used by college librarians to make users aware of information.

The college librarian may assist in providing full information on the procedure process, collection services, laws and regulations, and other topics are included in the college prospectus, which is revised annually. The librarian has an active role in library brochures, publication of a handbook/brochure with thorough information on the library. He/She might organise a book talk by selecting a group of 10 to 20 students asking them to participate in a conversation about a specific book, and also a script reading session can be scheduled for that particular book. The librarian can start a counselling centre within the library wherein it can provide the most up-to-date information literacy on the syllabi of numerous competitive examinations and employment prospects. Also a readers club can be established in order to promote the reading culture. Through library user education programme can be introduced by the means of lecture method as well as arranging an activity like visits to library. The librarian may assist student in co-curricular activities just as newspaper clipping files and alike activities. The activity like the exhibition of books can be organised in order to encourage readers in inculcating reading habit among them. The library aids in education and research work, it can organise the author-reader visit programme, can form clubs like movie club etc. The programmes by library such as user orientation, quiz and debate, offering best readers awards etc are without doubt very important steps in the direction of information literacy.

#### IV. ROLE OF LIBRARIANS IN INFORMATION LITERACY

The complete scenario in libraries has transformed as a result of information and communication technologies. The library has evolved into a resource-based learning centre, and the job of the librarian is evolving rapidly in tandem with new educational paradigms. Moving from text-based to resource-based learning will result in increased use of library materials as well as a demand for more and more diverse media resources, both print and non-print. The librarian is in charge of loading, obtaining, disseminating, and tracking a variety of information resources. Database searching, inter-library loans, monitoring internet news groups, and maintaining a computerised library information system are all examples. Libraries and librarians play a critical role in preparing people to use information effectively and efficiently by teaching them information skills at all stages of education, enabling them to be well-informed citizens.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Due to information and communication development and changes that affect every educational programme and procedure, the college library, and indirectly all educational structures, faced challenges. In India, educational reforms are currently underway to improve educational outcomes, and these changes are creating significant changes. Students are demanding better educational outcomes in order to become competitive, hence curriculum modifications are required. Librarians must maximise their potential in this setting in order to play a role in the teaching and learning process.

To help students develop information literacy abilities, each academic must be involved in instructional strategies and learning materials. Because we must be willing to promote and share our experience in this information area in support of our institutional educational mission, we must have an active and ongoing programme concerning information access, development, and support from faculty makers, librarians, and other information providers. We are convinced that our approach for developing and integrating an effective information literacy course will be adopted since it will improve students' general talents, such as problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, communication, and presentation of their ideas.

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