
IMPACT OF INFORMATION LITERACY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Jahan Ara, Sheik.

Lecturer in Library and Information Science,
Silver jubilee Government College, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

Received: Oct. 2019 Accepted: Nov. 2019 Published: Dec. 2019

Abstract: Information Literacy forms the basic quality in Higher education to learn new things and access the data and to have expertise in Research. The under Graduates should have the foundation of Information Literacy to achieve the thorough learning, understanding and evaluating the things that they have learnt in their regular traditional and conventional way in classrooms or in their laboratories practically. When the world is after virtual transactions, virtual classrooms and virtual practical labs to have the perception of the real when we do not have the sufficient resources, it is necessary for the staff and students in higher education to find the suitable solution. In the same way when there are many unwanted things are abundant and uncontrolled data in the internet the need of Information literacy is very much necessary and it plays a great role in higher education. The students and staff should inculcate the habit of lifelong learning of Information literacy to get through the day to day developments and competitions in Learning Management. This paper is about the impact of Information Literacy in higher education.

Keywords: Assessment, Higher Education, Information Literacy, Information Technology, Librarians.

Introduction: Information Literacy is Connected With The Information Technology. Every Development In School, College, University Is Lined And Linked With The Internet, Lan, Wi-Fi Or Any Other Area Networks. If The Internet Is Not Available The Works Will Not Be Completed And The Time Will Be Wasted. Even The Assignments Are Given, Learnt And Done With The Help Of The Internet.

This paper deals with the following:

- Definition of the Information Literacy
- Information Literacy and higher education
- Use of standards and assessment
- Use of performer's indicators and instructions to the faculty and librarians

Definition of the Information Literacy: Information means facts provided or learned about something or someone; facts conveyed or represented by a particular arrangement or sequence of things.

Literacy means the ability to read and write; competence or knowledge in specified area. In this context computer Literacy is very much essential and it will make the individual to lead in to the proper channel of information which we need and want.

Information Literacy is defined as a set of abilities requiring individuals when information is needed to have the ability to locate, evaluate and use it effectively the needed information. There are steps to follow in Information Literacy.

- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally

Information Literacy and Higher Education: The 21st Century has brought enormous change in higher education throughout the world as a result of new information and technological developments.

According to UNESCO, the empowerment of people through media and Information Literacy is an important requirement for fostering equitable access to information and knowledge and “promoting free, independent and pluralistic media and information systems.”

Why Information Literacy is important to educational institutions?– The answer is Information revolution made the world full of information which may be needed or may not. So the scholars should use these electronically published resources to think critically, pose and solve problems and become independent lifelong learners.

Universities should provide opportunities for ensuring that all students acquire necessary competence in knowing how to navigate the web and find quality resources to formulate questions, to access potential sources of information to evaluate information for accuracy and quality. The research should be progressive and if the foundations are laid down in undergraduate level itself through Information literacy it is easy for the students to inculcate the learning and researching through the next stages.

Use of Standards and Assessment: Growing collection of print and electronic resources made it difficult for the faculty. Administration, faculty and the librarian should work in coordination to develop the curricula.

- The resources and the access points should be many for the easier access. The Learning programme actively engages the faculty and staff through various outreach activities. Information literacy workshops and training are designed to enrich the learning, teaching and research experiences. The staff should be very competent to deal with their students while designing the project of learning subject through information literacy.
- They should know the availability of the resources in the library and also various points of accessibility for the students to develop their competencies in the given assignment. The effective use of e resources is planned by the curricula.
- The Library and information centre and other points of access should be equipped with good network speed.
- To enable the faculty with better evaluation and retrieve facilities for the scholarly information good and standard subscriptions are taken. For example NLIST.
- Within the curriculum, in Graduation Course, supportive and standard Information Literacy Programme is introduced to enable the first year students to acquire the necessary literacy skills to deal independently and skillfully with substantial amount of information.

- Faculty also inspires students through lectures and by leading discussions. The students will learn to explore the unknown by the guidance given.
- This will pave the way to the students that how best they fulfill the information needs and monitor the student's progress and a base to performance.
- Depending upon their performances to acquire knowledge and the way of presentation, perception includes in assessment.
- The curricula planning and the standards of assessment will build up competencies in the student at their under graduate level itself at the end of the first year.

Use of Performance Indicators and Instructions to the Faculty and Librarians:

Academic librarians' co ordinate the evaluation, selection of intellectual resources for programmes and services.

- They should organize workshops for the benefit of staff and students.
- Maintain the good collection of resources
- Points of access and their quality in speed should be taken care of for information retrieval.
- Librarians should provide information and instructions to the staff and students regarding the resources available, their time and pass words etc.
- Role of Administration should create opportunities collaboration and staff development among faculty and librarians and other professionals' organizers and people who initiate information literacy programme.
- Administration of the institution should plan for the effective implementation of the information literacy.
- Budget for the implementation should be allocated well in advance.
- Administration should support the ongoing resources to sustain the learning and research activities through information literacy. Subscriptions should be paid in to the service providers and database management.
- Performance indicators for students are done with a frame work of gaining control over how they interact with information in their environment.
- Information literacy will help the students to scrutinize the information available and help them to develop a metacognitive approach- a good performance indicator.
- Gathering the information, analyzing the information and using the information will develop good competencies at the right age.
- Critical thinking will help them whether the information is helpful or recommended or not.
- Students on experience learn that which point of information is to be focused well and given greater importance while presentation. This is also act as a good performance indicator.
- At every step of task, the performance of information seeking behavior and approach, repeat the same steps evaluate aspects within each standard of assessment will make the student to think and accordingly. In this process, students develop quicker perception and action.
- To have standards fully and to adhere its image_an Institution should first review its mission and educational goals. This determines the standards and improves learning and enhances effectiveness of programmes.
- To facilitate the acceptance of Information literacy concept, the faculty, Librarian and the Administration collaboration is important.
- Training to the staff including librarian and students is inevitable.
- Workshops should be conducted for the first year students every year to have efficiency and standard in their presentation.

- The new and senior staff should work as one entity for the development of the institution and for the benefit of the student community.

Conclusion: The result of the Information Literacy in higher education will have a great impact on the future generations to explore and to do research in the field of interest.

- Knowledge creation and directing the students not to while away their precious time in unnecessary things.
- When a work is assigned to a student it is compulsory for the staff to know about it in all aspects. This indicator increases the scholarly content of the staff and the activities done by the students will have sustainability.
- Publications in different disciplines will be increased- in the other way research activity will be in a progressive way.
- Students can compete well with other students round the world.
- Information literacy will make the students to think globally and to react globally. The regional, local problems will be solved when we think as one category and one community and one in strength as human beings.

References:

1. Carolina Barton."Information Literacy and Higher education," July, 2016.
2. Alexander, N.A. "Policy analysis for educational leaders: A step by step approach." Pearson education.
3. Aziz El Hassani and Abdelhamid Nfissi. "The role of Information Literacy in Higher Education." Morocco world news. July 21,2015.
4. Adler,R.P. "Information Literacy: advancing opportunities for learning in the digital age." 1999.
5. UNESCO.org. Communication and organization. "Media and Information Literacy (MIL)." retrieved from <https://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/media-literacy/mil-as-composite-concept/>
6. ACRL "The Information Literacy competency standards for Higher Education."ALA Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida. June 25,2016. <https://hdl.handle.net/11213//7668> date: 2000-01.
