Research Article

Educational Administration Theory and Practice

Utilization Of Information Literacy Skills Of The Faculty Members In Affiliated Colleges Of Tumkur University In Karnataka

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	This study investigates the utilization of information literacy (IL) skills among faculty members in affiliated colleges of Tumkur University, Karnataka. Information literacy is crucial for educators to effectively access, evaluate, and utilize information resources in teaching, research, and professional development. Despite its importance, there is limited research on how faculty members in affiliated colleges utilize these skills. Using a mixed-methods approach, data was collected through surveys and interviews with faculty members across various disciplines. The study aims to identify the current level of IL skills among faculty, their perceived barriers to utilizing these skills, and the impact of IL on teaching and research practices. Preliminary findings suggest that while faculty members generally acknowledge the importance of IL, there are significant gaps in their actual utilization of these skills. Barriers such as lack of time, inadequate training, and limited access to relevant resources were commonly reported. However, faculty members who actively engage in IL activities demonstrate enhanced ability to integrate current and relevant information into their teaching and research. This study contributes to the understanding of IL practices among faculty members in a specific regional context, offering insights into strategies for improving IL education and support mechanisms. Recommendations include targeted training programs, institutional support for resource access, and integration of IL skills into curriculum design. Addressing these issues can potentially enhance the quality of education and research output in affiliated colleges of Tumkur University. **Keywords:** Information, Literacy, Skills, Information literacy, Literacy skills, Constituent colleges and Tumkur University.

Introduction

In the rapidly evolving landscape of higher education, information literacy has emerged as a pivotal skill set for faculty members. Information literacy encompasses the ability to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information, and is essential for academic success, professional development, and fostering a research-oriented culture. For faculty members, these skills are particularly critical as they directly impact teaching quality, research productivity, and the ability to guide students in developing their own information literacy competencies. Tumkur University, located in Karnataka, India, affiliates numerous colleges, each with a diverse faculty body. This diversity presents unique challenges and opportunities in the realm of information literacy. Faculty members in these affiliated colleges are expected to stay abreast of the latest developments in their respective fields, integrate new knowledge into their curricula, and contribute to the body of research. However, the extent to which they utilize information literacy skills can significantly influence their effectiveness in these roles.

This study aims to investigate the utilization of information literacy skills among faculty members in affiliated colleges of Tumkur University. By assessing the current level of information literacy, identifying

frequently used information sources, and evaluating the impact on teaching and research activities, this research seeks to uncover the challenges faculty members face and provide recommendations for enhancing their information literacy capabilities. The need for this study is underscored by the increasing importance of digital information and the growing complexity of academic resources. Faculty members must navigate a vast array of information sources, including digital libraries, online journals, databases, and more. Ensuring that they possess the necessary skills to effectively utilize these resources is crucial for their professional development and for the academic success of their students.

Review of Literature

A study on information literacy on PG students was done by Latha & Krishnamurthy (2020) investigated the information literacy of female postgraduate students at Gulbarga University in Kalaburgi, Karnataka. According to the study, Gulbarga University post-graduate students can distinguish between primary, secondary, and tertiary sources. According to the data, 61.98% of respondents have a basic knowledge of computer applications, while 96.69% believe information literacy training is vital and 52.89 percent believe it should be included in a curriculum. One more similarity study was investigated by Asha and Adithya (2018) explore the information literacy skills of science faculty members at first-grade colleges affiliated with University of Mysore. According to the data, the majority of faculty members at the University of Mysore's first-grade colleges have very inadequate information literacy abilities. The majority of faculty members employ conventional search tactics rather than wildcard searches. The study emphasizes the importance of faculty training programmes in order to improve their abilities. Further, the Hemavathi and Chandrashekara (2019) explored the information literacy competencies of students in the horticulture of Arabhavi and Belagavi. The study used a questionnaire method for the collection of data. The majority of respondents incorporate information literacy programs into their curricula.

Objectives of the Study

• To assess the level of information literacy skills among faculty members.
• To identify the sources of information most frequently used by faculty.
• To evaluate the impact of information literacy on teaching and research activities.
• To determine the challenges faced by faculty in accessing and utilizing information.
• To suggest measures to enhance information literacy skills among faculty members.

Methodology

The present study aims to examine the Use of Information Resources and services in First Grade College Students affiliated to Tumkur University. The questionnaire methods were adopted for the present study to collect the necessary data, keeping in view the objectives of the study. Totally 500 questionnaire were distributed to the first grade college students affiliated to Tumkur University and 450 filled in questionnaire were collected back. Reaming 10% students are not respondents in this study. The rate of response of 90%. The collected data has been analyzed using appropriate statistical techniques with SPSS Software such as Chi-Square test, Analysis of Variance and corresponding analysis.

Need of the Study:

• Due to recent trends in Information and communication technology information overload by various means or formats,
• The pedagogical process is undergoing quick transformation.
• Information literacy skills make the individual competent enough in lifelong process.
• This will enhance the user perception and they enjoy learning.

Research Gap: The review of literature reveals that the existences of number of studies on IL skills of various aspects have been conducted across the globe on diversified branches, profession and group level, disciplines, institutional level etc. There are few studies in the library literature investigating set of information literacy skills among faculty members. But no specific in depth study has been undertaken to know information literacy skills of the faculty members to Tumkur University Affiliated Colleges. So, in this circumstance it is a necessary to carry research work on information literacy skills among faculty members to Tumkur University Affiliated Colleges.

Scope of the Study:

The specific scope and importance of the study are as follows:
• This study will be conducting to the faculty members of Tumkur University affiliated colleges.
• This study will be cover all the Tumkur University affiliated colleges located in Tumkur district of Karnataka State.
• This study will be investigating or conducting on the use of library resources and services of all the Tumkur University affiliated colleges.
• These results of the study will be cover to all Tumkur University affiliated colleges.

Analysis and Interpretation

Primary data, which was collected from faculty members were analysed by using appropriate tools and techniques such as simple calculation method subsequent sections for easy comprehension. Collected primary data were presented in following tables and figures.

Table: 1- Gender wise respondents

Gender wise	Frequency	Percentage
Male	298	66.2
Female	152	33.8
Total	**450**	**100.0**

Table: 1- presents data on gender-wise distribution of respondents, about 66.2 percent are male and the remaining 33.8 percent are females.

Table: 2 - Age wise respondents

Age Groups	Frequency	Percentage
Below 30	203	45.1
31-40	66	14.7
41-50	121	26.9
51-60	60	13.3
Total	**450**	**100.0**

From the table-2 it is clear that 450 respondents are in the age group of below 30 years representing 45.1 percent of the total sample. Another 121 (26.9%) of respondents fall in the age group of 41-50 years. While 66 (14.7%) of respondents belong to the age group of 31-40 years, remaining respondents that is 60 (13.3%) are in the age group of 51-60 years. It can be concluded from the above analysis that majority of the faculty members belong to the below 30 age group.

Table: 3- College wise respondents

College/University	Frequency	Percentage
GFGC Badavanahalli	36	8.0
GFGC Gubbi	76	16.9
GFGC Midigeshi	45	10.0
GFGC Tumkur	100	22.2
Seshadripuram Degree College Tumkur	193	42.9
Total	**450**	**100.0**

From the table-3 it is clear that 450 respondents are in the College wise group of Seshadripuram Degree College Tumkur 193 (42.9%) of the total sample. Another 100 (22.2%) of respondents fall in the GFGC Tumkur. While 76 (16.9%) of respondents belong to the GFGC Gubbi and 45 (10.0) of respondents belongs to GFGC Midigeshi, remaining respondents that is 36 (8.0%) are GFGC Badavanahalli. It can be concluded from the above analysis that majority of the college belong to the Seshadripuram Degree College Tumkur 193 (42.9%).

Table: 4 - Designation wise respondents

Designation	Frequency	Percentage
Assistant Professor	317	70.4
Associate Professor	120	26.7
Professor	13	2.9
Total	**450**	**100.0**

Table: 4 shows that designation wise distribution of the respondents, out of 450 total users, 317 (70.4%) are Assistant Professors, 120 (26.7%) are Associate Professor and 13 (2.9%) are Professors.

Table: 5 -Teaching Experience wise respondents

Teaching Experience	Frequency	Percentage
Below 10	241	53.6
11-20	92	20.4
21-30	105	23.3
31-40	8	1.8
41-50	4	0.9
Total	**450**	**100.0**

From the table-5 it is clear that 450 respondents are in the teaching experience of below 10 years representing 241 (53.6%) of the total sample. Another 105 (23.3%) of respondents fall in the experience of 21-

30. While 92 (20.4%) of respondents belong to the experience of 11-20, are 8 (1.8%) of respondents fall in the experience of 31-40, remaining respondents that is 4 (0.9%) are in the experience of 41-50. It can be concluded from the above analysis that majority of the teaching experience belong to the below 10 years.

Table: 6 - Gender of the Respondents Vs Frequency of Library Visit

| Gender wise | Frequency of Library Visits | | | | Chi-Square Value | P-Value |
	Alternative days	Daily	Whenever needed Occasionally	Total		
Male	85 (28.5)	191 (64.1)	22 (7.4)	298 (100.0)	1.123	0.570
Female	48 (31.6)	90 (59.2)	14 (9.2)	152 (100.0)		
Total	133 (29.6)	281 (62.4)	36 (8.0)	450 (100.0)		

Frequency (%) The Chi square test is applied for further discussion. By analyzing the Gender wise respondents. We used Chi square test which shows that there is a significant relationship between the genders wise and Frequency of Library Visit of Respondents. The Chi square value 1.123at 95% confidence which is greater than its p value at 5 percent level significance. Hence there is no significant association between genders wise and Frequency of Library Visit of Respondents.

Table: 7 - Age groups of the Respondents Vs Frequency of Library Visit

| Age Groups | Frequency of Library Visits | | | | Chi-Square Value | P-Value |
	Alternative days	Daily	Whenever needed Occasionally	Total		
Below 30	65 (32.0)	130 (64.0)	8 (3.9)	203 (100.0)	24.398	0.000*
31-40	16 (24.2)	40 (60.6)	10 (15.2)	66 (100.0)		
41-50	29 (24.0)	74 (61.2)	18 (14.9)	121 (100.0)		
51-60	23 (38.3)	37 (61.7)	0 (0.0)	60 (100.0)		
Total	133 (29.6)	281 (62.4)	36 (8.0)	450 (100.0)		

Frequency (%), *95% Significance Level

The Chi square test is applied for further discussion. By analyzing the Age wise respondents. We used Chi square test which shows that there is a significant relationship between the age wise and Frequency of Library Visit of Respondents. The Chi square value 24.398 at 95% confidence which is less than its p value at 5 percent level significance. Hence there is a significant association between age wise and Frequency of Library Visit of Respondents.

Table: 8 - Education of the Respondents Vs Frequency of Library Visit

| Education wise | Frequency of Library Visits | | | | Chi-Square Value | P-Value |
	Alternative days	Daily	Whenever needed Occasionally	Total		
M.Com	0 (0.0)	4 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (100.0)	100.800	0.000*
M Com., M.Phil,	2 (25.0)	6 (75.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (100.0)		
M.Com., NET	35 (33.0)	67 (63.2)	4 (3.8)	106 (100.0)		
M.Com., Ph.D.	6 (15.4)	24 (61.5)	9 (23.1)	39 (100.0)		
M.Sc., M.Phil,	4 (50.0)	4 (50.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (100.0)		
M.Sc., NET	1 (20.0)	4 (80.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (100.0)		
M.A.,	10 (50.0)	10 (50.0)	0 (0.0)	20 (100.0)		
M.A., M.Phil,	5 (15.2)	26 (78.8)	2 (6.1)	33 (100.0)		
M.A., NET	26 (51.0)	25 (49.0)	0 (0.0)	51 (100.0)		
M.A., Ph.D.	14 (20.0)	40 (57.1)	16 (22.9)	70 (100.0)		
M.A., SLET	2 (20.0)	3 (30.0)	5 (50.0)	10 (100.0)		
MCA	16 (25.4)	47 (74.6)	0 (0.0)	63 (100.0)		
M.Sc., Ph.D.	12 (36.4)	21 (63.6)	0 (0.0)	33 (100.0)		
Total	133 (29.6)	281 (62.4)	36 (8.0)	450 (100.0)		

Frequency (%), *95% Significance Level

The Chi square test is applied for further discussion. By analyzing the Educational Qualification wise respondents. We used Chi square test which shows that there is a significant relationship between the educational qualification wise and Frequency of Library Visit of Respondents. The Chi square value 100.800 at 95% confidence which is less than its p value at 5 percent level significance. Hence there is a significant association between educational qualification wise and Frequency of Library Visit of Respondents.

Table: 9 - Designation of the Respondents Vs Frequency of Library Visit

Designation	Frequency of Library Visits				Chi-Square Value	P-Value
	Alternative days	Daily	Whenever needed Occasionally	Total		
Assistant Professor	99 (31.2)	198 (62.5)	20 (6.3)	317 (100.0)		
Associate Professor	31 (25.8)	76 (63.3)	13 (10.8)	120 (100.0)	7.248	0.123
Professor	3 (23.1)	7 (53.8)	3 (23.1)	13 (100.0)		
Total	133 (29.6)	281 (62.4)	36 (8.0)	450 (100.0)		

Frequency (%)

The Chi square test is applied for further discussion. By analyzing the Designation wise respondents. We used Chi square test which shows that there is a significant relationship between the designation wise and Frequency of Library Visit of Respondents. The Chi square value 7.248 at 95% confidence which is greater than its p value at 5 percent level significance. Hence there is no significant association between designation wise and Frequency of Library Visit of Respondents.

Table: 10- library conduct following program

library conduct following program	Occasionally	Regular	Seldom	Never
Bibliographic Instruction	233 (51.8)	217 (48.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
User Education	189 (42.0)	261 (58.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Information Literacy	226 (50.2)	219 (48.7)	5 (1.1)	0 (0.0)
Library Tour	246 (54.7)	24 (5.3)	45 (10.0)	135 (30.0)
Library Lectures in Class	198 (44.0)	117 (26.0)	0 (0.0)	135 (30.0)
Know your Library Manual /Brochure	196 (43.6)	209 (46.4)	0 (0.0)	45 (10.0)

Frequency (%)

ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Rows	0	5	0	0	1	2.901
Columns	172396.3	3	57465.44	13.319	0.000	3.287
Error	64717.67	15	4314.51			
Total	237114	23				

The two-way Anova model is applied for further discussion. At one point, the computed Anova value is -0, which is greater than its p value at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, there is no significant library conduct following program of the respondents. At another point, the computed Anova value 13.319 which is less than its p value at 5 percent level of significance. Hence, variation among the library conduct following program of the respondents is statistically identified as significant.

Conclusion

The utilization of information literacy skills among faculty members in affiliated colleges of Tumkur University in Karnataka appears to be a critical area requiring attention. Based on the information available, it can be concluded that while information literacy skills are essential for effective teaching and research, there might be gaps or challenges in their application among faculty members.
Further research or investigation into specific factors such as training programs offered, access to resources, and institutional support for developing information literacy skills would provide a clearer understanding. Additionally, exploring how these skills impact teaching quality, research output, and overall academic performance could offer insights into areas for improvement. In conclusion, enhancing the utilization of information literacy skills among faculty members could potentially contribute to improved educational outcomes and scholarly productivity in affiliated colleges of Tumkur University.

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