

Perceived Impact of Books on Student Reading Habit

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Abstract

Reading is an art capable of transforming man's life and the entire society. It is a wonderful activity, which not only gives pleasure but also a basic tool for education. Reading makes a better understanding one's experience and exiting voyage to self-discovery. The present study expresses a mere high interest for digital texts, even though without raising significant concerns. Respondents appreciate the ease of access provided by e-resources for both the academic and general information but still they show the affection towards print material. Result will help the library to better evaluate the services providing for both traditional and digital information seekers and helps to navigate the possible issues related to implementation.

Keywords: Reading habits, Medical students, Print media, Digital media

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INTRODUCTION

Reading is the activity which helps in mending one's view towards life and shift the ways of thinking and reasoning for personal development. It also empathise the world around him better which leads in the victory. Reading will have a more perspective on various areas of life, makes man more creative and helps in developing good self-image.

Technology is dominating our life where each thing seems to be attainable digitally and even the information is not away from it. Technology helps in the betterment of the livelihood. With the emergence of digital media, the environment and working culture of traditional library have changed. The reading habits and interest of library users have also changed with the changing environment. Users are looking for an opportunity to read contents in electronic mode which overcomes/reduces burden of keep staying inside the library for long hours. Electronic mode also helps users to read contents while travelling or moving around the world. Despite this reading, through print text in certain situation gives immense pleasure and full of energy for the reader which can't be expected when read too much on digital text. Reader feels the comfort with print rather than digital texts. Print resources widen knowledge related to one aspect by navigating reader in a

particular streamline which is lacking in reading digital text. Library is one of the primarily institution that can develop reading and make one as habitual reader and its main role is to adopt the changing technologies which have converted the functional activities in all walks of life.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the format of reading resources.
2. To know the preference of reading material to read at a time.
3. To find the use of reading material in library.
4. To identify the preferential media for the necessary purpose.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Boruff and Dale [1] find in the study about the utilization of smart phones and the use of library licensed medical resources in the smart phones by the health science faculty especially the younger health professionals. The study was carried out by web based survey method with participants from four Canadian universities: McGill University, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Ottawa. The study concludes that clinicians preferred to use mobile device rather than other participants, Up-to-date was the most

popular information seeking resource by the participants and mobile devices are frequently used to search journal article despite of the disadvantage mentioned like the small size of the screen and difficulty in complex searching. The study suggest that library has to remove the access barrier to the library licensed resources and the library managers has to take initiative in guiding the user for using these resources through online like email, social media and other electronic means.

Varghese et al. [2] investigates the growing influence of the e-learning material on medical education to enhance the teaching. The study was focused on the first year medical students of biochemistry of Christian medical college, Vellore, Tamil Nadu. The study comes up with the result that e-learning resources served as the additional and comprehensive source for learning. Many students used these sources for completing their periodic formative assessment and gradually the dependency on the text book has decreased for this assessment especially for some of the topic like carcinogenesis where it was hard to find vast information in the text books and even this helped the students in scoring high marks at their periodic assessment but students preferred text books more than these e-resources for the final summative assessment.

Khalid [3] describes the definitions of reading and reading habits, and benefits of reading. Study lists out the main reasons for poor reading habits in Pakistan, like absence of reading culture and poor education system. Study also covers about books and reading in digital age, libraries and its role in promotion of reading habits. The study suggest that Internet is an effective tool for the promotion of reading habits, for example libraries web pages and electronic reference services, etc. provides the remote access that in turn promote reading habits.

Diane [4] studied on new roles for the medical librarian in an information management environment. Author mentioned that over the course of the next 20 years libraries will be undergoing significant retooling so that they can move beyond their traditional roles and become the manager of the medical centre's information network. As libraries automate, the role of the medical librarian will change. To manage the change with ease librarians must

begin now to equip themselves, their libraries and their clientele to function effectively in the new environment. Developing formalised instructional programmes that link individuals to information and to systems that provide those individuals with personal memory extenders and lifelong learning supports will be among the librarian's top priorities.

Bulent et al. [5] in their research determines the levels of reading habits among fourth-year students in the Faculty of Medicine at Hacettepe University and in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture at Bilkent University. With this aim, a questionnaire was completed by 104 students from these universities in December 2008. Finding of research was that the students from both universities have relatively low levels of reading. Furthermore, students do not read regularly, and they prefer to buy books that they wish to read. Personal reading habits reflect both individual development and reading levels within the society as a whole. Students generally could not read mainly due to insufficient time. Use of the library is not related to the students' reading habits.

Zhang and Kudva [6] examines the preference for e-books and print books in the contexts of reading purpose and situation with contextual variables such as age, gender, education level, race/ethnicity, income, community type, and Internet use. The study states that most people who have adopted e-books come from a specific section of the community because the innovation itself is compatible with their lifestyle, in terms of cost and improved quality of life. Younger generation and highly educated are more intended in using the e-books. Despite of the print and e-book, people read books mainly for pleasure and they read every day. The study concludes peoples of America are turning towards the e-book due to its easy accessibility but still the e-books are not able to replace the print book popularity.

METHODOLOGY

The investigator scanned previous related literature and designed questionnaire. Survey method was adopted to conduct the study and data has been obtained through the structured questionnaires, which were randomly distributed among the students. Using

appropriate statistical techniques data were analysed and is presented in the table.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION

Scope of the study was primarily limited to know reading interest and reading habits among Allopathy medical students. Hence the study may not be extendable to other category of medical students like Ayurvedic, Homeopathy, Dental, etc. Geographically the study limits to medical colleges in Karnataka state. The institutions selected for the study is chosen randomly covering all parts of Karnataka.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1 furnishes details about the preferable format of reading resource. It can be seen in the table that 593 (61.08%) of respondents opine they use both print and the digital media as and when the situation needs followed by 353 (36.35%) prefers to use print resources and 25 (2.57%) prefers digital resources for reading.

Table 2 shows contingency co-efficient analysis of the reading material preferred by the users to read at a time. The table shows that out of the total 971 respondents, 611(62.9%) of them often refer one book at a time to read. The responses are further supported by non-significant contingency co-efficient (CC = 0.057 P = 0.526). It can be seen in the table that 459 (47.3%) of the total respondents sometimes refer more than one book at a time and the responses are significantly associated (CC = 0.111 P = 0.016).

As for as concentrating on both digital and print media at a time and referring several e-resources at a time is considered, the table shows that 347 (35.7%) and 345 (35.5%) of the

total respondents rarely concentrates on both digital and print media at a time and refers several e-resources at a time, respectively and both the responses are further supported by non-significant contingency co-efficient value (CC=0.076 P=0.230) and (CC=0.044 P=0.750), respectively.

Table 3 gives details about the usage of different reading materials in library by different academic grade students. It can be seen from the table that maximum number of UG respondents 684 (80.75%) use 'to a great extent' print books followed by 523 (61.75%) google for information. It can be observed 371 (43.80%), and 390 (46.05%) use old/ rare collections and e-databases 'to a moderate extent' and 'to a little extent' respectively. The table shows that 44 (78.57%) PG students use e-journals 'to a great extent' followed by 38 (67.86%) use e-databases in library whereas 29 (51.79%) and 23 (41.07%) of PG students use print magazines and print books 'to a moderate extent' and 'to a little extent' in library to access information respectively. It can be further seen in the table that maximum number of residents 44(64.70%), 37(54.41%) and 23(33.82%) use e-databases, DVDs/CDs and google 'to a great extent', 'to a moderate extent' and 'to a little extent' respectively for accessing information.

Table 1: Format of Reading Resources.

Reading Resources	f	%
Print	353	36.35
Digital	25	2.57
As and when situation needs	593	61.08
Total	971	100

Table 2: Preference of Reading Material to Read at a Time.

Reading material		Total	Can't say	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Total	Chi-square test	
									CC	P
Refer one book at a time	Total	f	11	7	60	282	611	971	0.057	0.526
		%	1.1	0.7	6.2	29.0%	62.9	100.0		
Refer more than one book at a time	Total	f	3	22	148	459	339	971	0.111	0.016
		%	0.3	2.3	15.2	47.3%	34.9	100.0		
Concentrating on both digital & print media at a time	Total	f	11	106	347	341	166	971	0.076	0.230
		%	1.1	10.9	35.7	35.1%	17.1	100.0		
Referring several e-resources at a time	Total	f	49	249	345	240	88	971	0.044	0.750
		%	5.0	25.6	35.5	24.7%	9.1	100.0		

Table 3: Use of Reading Materials in Library.

Reading Materials		UG students (N=847)			PG students (N=56)			Residents (N=68)		
		To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To a little extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To a little extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To a little extent
Print Books	f	684	91	72	15	18	23	18	35	15
	%	80.75	10.75	8.50	26.78	32.15	41.07	26.47	51.47	22.06
Print Journals	f	234	259	354	34	14	08	32	28	08
	%	27.62	30.58	41.80	60.72	25.00	14.28	47.05	41.18	11.77
Print Magazines	f	408	312	127	18	29	09	34	22	12
	%	48.17	36.83	15.00	32.14	51.79	16.07	50.00	32.35	17.65
Print Reference Materials	f	493	224	130	16	21	19	26	24	18
	%	58.20	26.45	15.35	28.57	37.50	33.92	38.23	35.30	26.47
News Papers	f	438	216	193	28	16	12	29	23	16
	%	51.71	25.50	22.79	50.0	28.58	21.42	42.65	33.83	23.52
DVDs/CDs	f	197	292	358	30	18	08	18	37	13
	%	23.25	34.48	42.27	53.58	32.14	14.28	26.47	54.41	19.12
e-books	f	316	332	199	31	15	10	34	19	15
	%	37.30	39.20	23.50	55.35	26.80	17.85	50.00	27.94	22.06
e-journals	f	384	255	208	44	09	03	41	23	04
	%	45.34	30.10	24.56	78.57	16.07	5.36	60.30	33.82	5.88
e-databases	f	126	331	390	38	11	07	44	14	10
	%	14.87	39.08	46.05	67.86	19.64	12.50	64.70	20.60	14.70
Old and Rare Collections	f	298	371	178	29	17	10	36	17	15
	%	35.18	43.80	21.02	51.80	30.35	17.85	52.94	25.00	22.06
Google for Information	f	523	228	96	25	13	18	33	12	23
	%	61.75	26.92	11.33	44.64	23.21	32.15	48.53	17.65	33.82

Table 4: Preferable Media of Reading for below Mentioned Purpose.

Preferable media of reading for below mentioned purpose		Print	Digital	As and need	Total	Chi-square test	
						CC	P
Reading for long time	Total	f 873	32	66	971	0.044	0.384
		% 89.9	3.3	6.8	100.0		
Sharing information with others	Total	f 153	714	104	971	0.053	0.258
		% 15.8	73.5	10.7	100.0		
Reading while travelling	Total	f 300	498	173	971	0.091	0.018
		% 30.9	51.3	17.8	100.0		
Quick information access	Total	f 100	774	97	971	0.015	0.899
		% 10.3	79.7	10.0	100.0		
Discussion	Total	f 478	296	197	971	0.029	0.667
		% 49.2	30.5	20.3	100.0		
Personal Collection	Total	f 501	287	183	971	0.141	0.000
		% 51.6	29.6	18.8	100.0		
Read for pleasure/ recreation	Total	f 514	285	172	971	0.124	0.001
		% 52.9	29.4	17.7	100.0		
Academic reading	Total	f 774	77	120	971	0.041	0.446
		% 79.7	7.9	12.4	100.0		

Table 4 illustrates details about the preferable media of reading for different purposes. It can be seen from the table that out of total 971 respondents, maximum number 89.9% of respondents prefer print media as far as reading for long time is concerned. The response are further supported by non-significant contingency co-efficient value (CC=0.044 P=0.384). Regarding sharing information with others maximum number 73.5% of the total respondents prefers digital

media and the responses are not significantly associated (CC=0.053 P=0.258).

It is seen in the table that out of total 971 respondents, maximum number 51.3% of respondents prefer digital media for reading while travelling and the responses are significantly associated (CC=0.091 P=0.018). it is observed in the table that out of the total respondents, 79.7% prefer digital media for quick information access and 49.2% prefer

print media for the discussions and both the responses are supported by non-significant contingency co-efficient value (CC=0.015 P=0.899) and (CC=0.029 P=0.667), respectively.

It is observed in the table that out of total 971 respondents, maximum number 51.6% and 52.9% of the respondents prefers print media for collection of reading material and reading for pleasure/recreation purposes, respectively. Both the responses are significantly associated with the contingency co-efficient value of (CC = 0.141 P = 0.000) and (CC = 0.124 P=0.001), respectively. Regarding the academic reading maximum 79.7% respondents prefers print media for reading and the responses are not significantly associated (CC = 0.041 P = 0.446).

FINDINGS

1. The study discovers that majority 61.08% of respondents prefer both print and digital resources as the circumstances demands and it is seen in the study that 36.35% prefers print resources, which says even at the swift changing world of the technology, demand for the print resources has not been decreased.
2. The study identifies that if the situation demands 47.3% of respondents sometimes refer more than one book at a time but respondents prefer rarely to refer several e-resources at a time.
3. Majority of the UG students use the print resources in the library to satisfy their information needs.
4. Majority of PG students use e-resources, old collections and print journals in library to access information whereas residents use e-databases, old collections and newspaper to maximum extent in the library.
5. The study finds that digital media is preferred for reading while travelling and print media is preferred for personal collection and reading for recreation/pleasure which are significantly associated with the responses.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Library should develop required collection and suitable environment that motivates users to develop reading habits and satisfy both the traditional and techno reader.

2. The information requirement for undergraduate, post-graduate and residents will be different and the collection development strategy should be as per requirement made by different users.
3. It is necessary to regularly examine and assess the uniqueness of students in order to provide the necessary approach/services for improving the students reading habits as requisite.

CONCLUSION

The library is the richest information treasure of human knowledge and cultural wealth, and should be able to meet effectively the challenges of the new technology revolution. As technology is improving, digital media attracts more peoples day by day due to its mobility. But both print and digital resources have distinctive attributes and serve divergent functions to meet every individual reading interest, which vary on many situations and demographic factors. The present study confirms that the medical students have positive view towards reading and always spend some time on reading for different purposes. Even the internet or digital media has not diminished the power of print media. Teachers, information professionals, parents and other concerned players associated with reading culture have to play active role in building a healthy reading society.

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