

Assessment of Digital Information Literacy among the Students of Ayurvedic Medical Colleges in Mysore: a case study

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***Abstract** - The Present article is an attempt to assess the Digital Information Literacy of the students of Ayurvedic Medical Colleges of Mysore. As we know that students of good academic rapport will get medical seat. So the study was conducted to know the digital information literacy among them. Data required for the study has been collected from the questionnaire method. This study found that E-Journals (62.06%%) are the most highly used digital resources to access academic information. 82.75% users aware about the concept of plagiarism and 85.05% respondents have the knowledge of IPR.*

Key Word: Digital Information Literacy, Information Literacy Assessment, Ayurvedic Medical Colleges, Mysore.

Introduction:

American Library Association (2006) defines Digital Information Literacy as the ability of a person to locate, evaluate, and use information efficiently, effectively, and ethically to answer an information need. Knowledge assembly, Internet searching, hyper textual navigation and content evaluation are the important core competencies of Digital information literacy. Glister (1997) defines digital literacy as, “set of skills to access the Internet; find, manage and edit digital information; join in communications; and otherwise engage with an online information and communication network”. Many studies have suggested that a digitally literate person should possess digital skills, knowledge & skills computing devices and computer networks.

Studies have suggested that making students’ information literate is an essential factor in appropriate teaching as well as in learning method and the studies have also identified librarian’s role in planning and conducting a digital information literacy programme course in academic institutions including medical education irrespective of its form like Ayurveda, Unani, allopathy etc.

Ayurvedic Medical Colleges in Mysore:

1. Government Ayurveda medical college and Hospital

Government Ayurveda medical college and Hospital was established in 1908. Hospital’s Library is one of the oldest library and has the collection of 1600 books, the library has many rare and out of print classical texts in its collection and it also include a small digital library.

2. J.S.S. Ayurveda Medical College

J.S.S. Ayurveda Medical College, Mysore was established in the year 1996-97. College library occupies 6000 sq ft with a seating capacity of 200 students, with the collection of 10,000 books, back volumes, about 25 National & International journals, magazines, newspapers and other information resources. Library is a member of HELINET.

Review of Literature:

Nagaraju, Roja (2014) presents the results of a survey conducted at Atreya Ayurvedic Medical College & research Centre. Their study identified that the student's lack of knowledge in legal and ethical use of information. The researchers suggested that the library authorities to conduct an information literacy awareness programs with co-operation of teaching staff of the college.

Kumbar, Tejaswini & Mahadeva (2014) in their research study made an attempt to analyze the Information literacy skills of PG science students of University of Mysore. The study found that 50% students have opined that they need Information Literacy Programme for effective utilization of information sources available in University library.

Sasikala & Dhanraju (2011) in their study mainly focused on Information Literacy skills of science students of Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, in identifying, locating, searching, accessing, retrieving and using information from both print and electronic sources of information. They have mentioned in their study that significant percent of the students in their study have suggested that Information Literacy skills can be promoted using the printed material on and through the college website.

Baro...et al (2011) in their study found that the students in the College of Health Sciences in Delta State University lack the necessary information literacy skills needed for the effective use of electronic resources to meet their academic information and research needs. They have suggested that Librarians should also collaborate with faculty to teach information literacy skills in the College of Health Sciences curriculum.

Chandrashekar... et al (2012) studied on ways and means of search strategy Post graduate students of Mysore University adopted to access information from different digital information sources. In this study the researchers have suggested that Information literacy programme is foreseeable for PG students.

Objective of the Study:

- To find out the Digital Information Literacy of the students of Ayurvedic Medical Colleges of Mysore.
- To know the use of e-resource using internet (internet literacy) of the students of Ayurvedic Medical Colleges of Mysore.
- To identify the knowledge of e-resources of information among the students of Ayurvedic Medical Colleges of Mysore
- To determine the need of Digital Information Literacy programme for the students of Ayurvedic Medical Colleges of Mysore.

Scope & limitation of the study: The sample population for the present study is students of Ayurvedic Medical Colleges. The study is limited to Ayurvedic Medical Colleges of Mysore only, which covers Government Ayurvedic Medical College and JSS Ayurvedic Medical College.

Methodology:

Based on the objectives of the study a structured questionnaire was designed to collect the data. A pilot study was conducted among selected students of government Ayurvedic college Mysore, based on the output of pilot study final structured questionnaire was prepared. A total of 200 questionnaires were randomly distributed among the students of Government Ayurvedic Medical College and JSS Ayurvedic Medical College, Mysuru. Out of which 174 (87%) filled questionnaires were received back. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage method and presented in the form of table and Charts.

Data Analysis & Interpretation:

Table 1: College and Gender Distribution of Respondents

SI No.	College	Female	Male	Total
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College	38 (67.84%)	18 (32.14%)	56 (32.18%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College	92 (77.96%)	26 (22.03%)	118 (67.82%)
	Total	130 (74.72%)	44 (25.28%)	174 (100%)

The above table 1 reveals the College and gender wise distribution of respondents. Out of 174 respondents 56 (32.18%) respondents are from Government Ayurvedic Medical College, in which 36 (67.84%) are Female and 18 (32.14%) are Male. 118 (67.82%) respondents are from JSS Ayurvedic Medical College, in which 92 (77.96%) are female and 26 (22.03%) are male. The analysis shows that the students of aided Ayurvedic medical college contributed more compare to government Ayurvedic medical College and female students contributed more for the study compare to male students.

Table 2: Frequency of Library Visit.

SI No.	College	Daily	Thrice in a week	Twice in a week	Weekly Once	Never	Total
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College	19 (33.92%)	20 (35.71%)	7 (12.5%)	10 (17.85%)	0 (0%)	56 (32.18%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College	44 (37.28%)	22 (18.64%)	14 (11.86%)	38 (32.20%)	0 (0%)	118 (67.82%)
	Total	63 (36.20%)	42 (24.13%)	21 (12.06%)	48 (27.58%)	0 (0%)	174 (100%)

Table 2 shows the frequency of library visit by the respondents out 174, 63 (36.20%) students visit library daily to use the library sources. Then followed by 48 (27.58%) respondents visit library weekly once, 42 (24.13%) respondents visit library thrice in a week and the remaining 21 (12.06%) respondents visit library twice in a week.

Table 3: Quantum of Time Spent in library.

Sl No.	College	Less than one hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	4 hours	Total
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College	6 (10.71%)	36 (64.28%)	14 (25%)	0 (0%)	56 (32.18%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College	33 (27.11%)	68 (27.11%)	14 (11.86%)	3 (1.69%)	118 (67.82%)
Total		39 (22.41%)	104 (59.77%)	28 (16.09%)	3 (1.72%)	174 (100%)

Table 3 depicts the time spent by the user in library. Out of 174 respondents, 104 (59.77%) respondents spent 1-2 hours per day in the library for their information need. 39 (22.41%) respondents spent less than one hour in library, then followed by 28 (16.09%) respondents use library sources 2-3 hours a day. Then the remaining 3 respondents spent 3-4 hours per day in library.

Table 4: Finding information for academic requirement in the library.

Sl No.	College	Text Books	Journals	Manuscripts	Theses/ Dissertations
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College N=56	48 (85.71%)	32 (57.14%)	10 (17.85%)	32 (57.14%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College N=118	114 (96.61%)	58 (49.15%)	10 (8.47%)	18 (15.25%)
Total N=174		162 (93.10%)	90 (51.72%)	20 (11.49%)	50 (28.73%)

Table 4 shows the knowledge of sources of information by the respondents for their academic requirement. Out of 174, 162(93.10%) respondents use text books followed by 90 (51.72%)users use journals, 50 (28.73%) respondents use thesis/Dissertations and the remaining 20 (11.49%) respondents use manuscripts for their academic requirement in the library.

Table 5: Method that followed to locate information Sources from library.

Sl No	College	Searching the book shelves directly	Taking assistance from the library staff	Taking assistance from friends	Library OPAC
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College N=56	44 (78.57%)	20 (35.71%)	4 (7.14%)	2 (3.57%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College N=118	102 (86.44%)	52 (44.06%)	10 (8.47%)	0 (0.0%)
Total N=174		146 (83.90%)	72 (41.37%)	14 (8.04%)	2 (1.14%)

Table 5 shows the search method used to locate the required information source of library. Out of 174 respondents, 146 (83.90%) were of the opinion that they search the book shelves directly, in that 102 (86.44%) respondents are from JSS Ayurvedic Medical College and 44 (78.57%) are from Government Ayurvedic Medical College. the table also displayed that 72

(41.37%) respondents prefer to take assistance from the library staff. amongst them 52 (44.06%) are from JSS Ayurvedic Medical College and 20 (35.71%) are from Government Medical College. 14 (8.04%) respondents likes to search library sources taking assistance from friends and remaining 02 (1.14%) respondents use library OPAC to search information sources in the library.

Table 6: Use of Internet Searching Tools.

Sl No	College	Search Engines	Subject Gateways	Online Bibliographic Databases	Digital Libraries
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College N=56	54 (96.42%)	46 (82.14%)	18 (32.14%)	28 (50%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College N=118	78 (66.10%)	42 (35.59%)	16 (13.55%)	36 (30.50%)
	Total N=174	132 (75.86%)	88 (50.57%)	34 (19.54%)	64 (36.78%)

The table illustrates that 75.86% of the respondents prefer search engines to obtain academic information through internet, followed by Subject Gateways 50.57%. 36.78% of respondents prefer digital libraries and only 19.54% opined that they use online bibliographic databases for their academic need.

Table 7: IT Skills of the Respondents

Sl No	College	Internet	MS-Office and Desktop Publishing Tools (DTP)	Multimedia Applications	Programming Languages
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College N=56	53 (94.64%)	47 (83.92%)	45 (80.35%)	12 (21.42%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College N=118	112 (94.91%)	89 (75.42%)	68 (57.62%)	21 (17.79%)
	Total N=174	165 (94.82%)	136 (78.16%)	113 (64.94%)	33 (18.96%)

The above table shows that 94.82% (165) of the respondents are familiar with the use of internet, 78.16% (136) are aware of MS word and desktop publishing, 64.94% (113) are having the knowledge of Multimedia Applications and 18.96% (33) are familiar with programming languages.

Table 8: Finding e - information resources for academic requirement

Sl No	College	E-Theses & Dissertations	E-Books	Online Databases	E-Journals	E-learning Portals	Medical apps
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College N=56	46 (82.14%)	30 (53.57%)	38 (67.85%)	40 (71.42%)	18 (32.14%)	32 (57.14%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College N=118	30 (25.42)	20 (16.94%)	26 (22.03%)	68 (57.62%)	0 (0.0%)	34 (28.81%)
	Total N=174	76 (43.67%)	50 (28.73%)	64 (36.78%)	108 (62.06%)	18 (10.34%)	66 (37.93%)

The above table illustrate that 62.06% (108) of the respondents uses E-Journals to access academic information, followed by E-Theses & Dissertations with 43.67%. Medical apps and online databases are the next priority to access academic information with 37.93% & 36.78% respectively. 28.73% respondents uses E-Books & only 10.34% of respondents uses E-learning Portals for their academic need.

Table 9: Purpose of Using Digital Resource.

SI No	College	Study	Research	Practical's	Drug information	Patient care	New Inventions
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College (N=56)	40 (71.42%)	46 (82.14%)	24 (42.85%)	34 (60.71%)	26 (46.42%)	26 (46.42%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College (N=118)	70 (59.32%)	30 (25.42%)	32 (27.11%)	60 (50.84%)	24 (20.33%)	30 (25.42%)
	Total N=174	110 (63.21%)	76 (43.67%)	56 (32.18%)	94 (54.02%)	50 (28.73%)	56 (32.18%)

Table 9 exhibits the purpose to use digital resources by the respondents. 63.21% (110) of the respondents have opined that they use digital resources for study purpose, 54.02% (94) of the respondents use digital resources to obtain drug information. This table also shows that 43.67% (76) of the respondents use digital resources for research purpose, 32.18% (56) of them for practical's and new inventions. Only 28.73% (50) have opined that they use digital resources for patient care.

Table 10: Evaluation criteria for Information retrieved through internet.

SI No	College	Authenticity	Reliability	Coverage	Accessibility
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College (N=56)	44 (78.57%)	36 (64.28%)	18 (32.14%)	8 (14.28%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College (N=118)	78 (66.10%)	36 (30.50%)	16 (13.55%)	6 (5.08%)
	Total(N=174)	122 (70.11%)	72 (41.37%)	34 (19.54%)	14 (8.04%)

Table 10 exhibits the evaluation criteria used by the respondents for evaluating the information resources retrieved through internet. 70.11% (122) respondents consider "Authenticity" as the most important criteria for evaluation, followed by "Reliability" with 41.37% (72) respondents. Coverage and accessibility are less followed criteria having 19.54% & 8.04% respectively

Table 11: Awareness of Plagiarism.

SI No	College	Yes	No	Total
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College	52 (92.85%)	4 (7.14%)	56 (32.18%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College	92 (77.96%)	26 (22.03%)	118 (67.82%)
	Total	144 (82.75%)	30 (17.24%)	174 (100%)

The table 12 shows knowledge of plagiarism by respondents. It is observed that 82.75% (144) of the respondents are aware of plagiarism & only 17.24% (30) are unaware of the concept plagiarism.

Table 12: Awareness of Intellectual Property Right.

SI No	College	Yes	No	Total
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College	50	6	56 (32.18%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College (N=118)	98	20	118 (67.82%)
	Total	148 (85.05%)	26 (14.95%)	174 (100%)

The table 12 depicts that 85.05% of the respondents are aware of IPR and only 14.95% are unaware of IPR concept.

Table13: College Library providing Digital Information Literacy programme.

SI No	College	Yes	No	Total
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College	00 (0.0%)	56 (100.0%)	56 (32.18%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College	00 (0.0%)	118 (100.0%)	118 (67.82%)
	Total	00 (0.0%)	174 (100%)	174 (100%)

This table presents that libraries in Government college as well private college were not conducting any kind of digital information literacy programme to the their students.

Table 14: Need of Digital Information Literacy programme.

SI No	College	Yes	No	Total
1	Government Ayurvedic Medical College	52 (92.85%)	4 (7.14%)	56 (32.18%)
2	JSS Ayurvedic Medical College	105 (88.98%)	13 (11.01%)	118 (67.82%)
	Total	157 (90.22%)	17 (9.77%)	174 (100%)

The table 14 shows that majority of respondents 90.22% (157) are of the opinion that they are in need of Digital Information Literacy programme and the remaining 9.77% (17) are not willing to have such a training programme.

Findings:

- The present study has found that maximum numbers of students visit library daily and spend 1-2 hours per day, which may indicate that the user come to library to borrow books and other document or to refer the reference sources than for academic study purpose.
- The study shows that text books are the most popular form of source of information for majority of the users and use traditional form of search compare to technology based search methods such as OPAC, etc.

- E-Journals are the most used digital resources to access academic information. E-books and E-learning portals are less used compared to other digital resources.
- Majority of the respondents are well aware of use of internet, MS Word and desktop publishing and multimedia applications.
- The study shows that majority of the respondents have opted for “Authenticity” as the major criteria as the evaluation method for the information resources retrieved by internet.
- Majority of the respondents aware about the concept of plagiarism and concept of IPR.
- The study shows that libraries in Government college as well private college were not conducting any kind of Digital Information Literacy programme to the students.
- Majority of the respondents are willing to have Digital Information Literacy programme.

Suggestion & Conclusion:

Though the students of this digital era are well aware of information communication technologies like using smart phones, internet, etc. Majority of them are not able to access relevant information because of lack of skills in terms of concept identification, search strategies, academic information sources, proper use of library catalogue and ethical and legal use of academic information.

The study suggests that libraries of the respective Ayurvedic medical colleges should conduct information literacy programmes in regular intervals. The administrative authorities of the colleges should support library professionals to conduct regular courses on Information literacy to the students. It is also a responsibility of the faculties to encourage and guide the students to gain ICT skills for their academic need.

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