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Digital literacy among library and information science research scholars of AMU and BHU: A comparative study

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Abstract

In modern era, the ability to access, retrieve, store, and share information is the important factors of Digital Literacy in today's complex environment. This Paper provides a status of awareness and level of skills towards digital technologies among the Library and Information science Research Scholars of two central Universities.

Keywords: Digital Literacy, ICT Tools

Introduction

Currently we are living in the digital era, the continuous advancement in the digital technologies, it is necessary for us to cope with this advancement 'To participate and take advantage, citizens must be digitally literate -equipped with the skills to benefit from and participate in the digital society. This includes both the ability to use new ICT tools and the media literacy skills to handle the flood of images, text and audiovisual content that constantly pour across the global networks.' (Europe's Information Society Thematic Portal, 2007).

Purpose of the study

As we all are know that libraries can play a significant role in the development of society with the help of proficient professionals, in connection with this, scholars of Library and Information are directly responsible for the success of libraries and they required updating with current technologies and possessing skills to implement that technology in libraries.

Material and Methods

Data related with status and awareness of Digital Literacy among Library and Information Science Scholars of AMU and BHU Universities has been collated in order to find out information with an aim to the following:-

- Awareness in LIS Research Scholars about Digital Literacy
- Mode used by LIS Research Scholars for Digital Awareness
- Skill level of LIS Research Scholars to use Digital Technologies
- Tools Used By LIS Research Scholars to Access Research Literature

Result and Discussion

After all the data were collated and the tabulated we have found the status to be as follows:

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaire

Name of the Universities	Total No of Questionnaire Distributed	Total No Responses Received	Responses in Percentage (%)
Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh	22	20	52.63%
Banaras Hindu University Varanasi	23	18	47.36
Total	43	38	88.37

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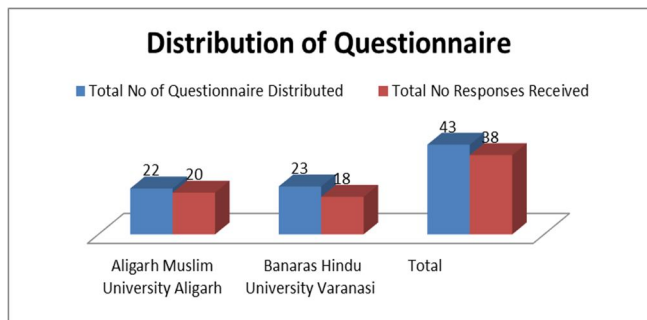


Fig 1

As illustrated in the (table 1) that 52.63% responses received from AMU and 47.36% from BHU. The total number wise graphical representations of responses have been given in figure no.1.

Table 2: Awareness about Digital Literacy

Awareness about Digital Literacy	Yes	%	No	%	Total
	35	92.19	3	7.89	
					100%

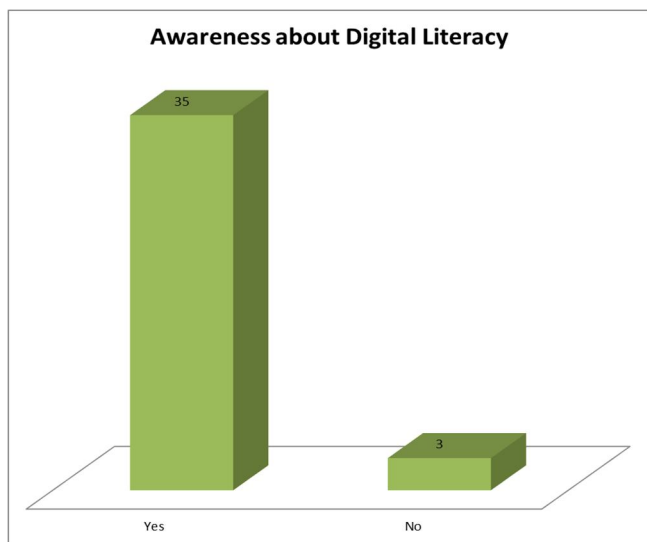


Fig 2

The word Awareness regard as the capability to remark, to sense, or to be aware of events, matter, thoughts etc. In order to know the awareness about digital literacy, the respondents were asked to specify their awareness and knowledge to use Digital Devices. As illustrated in the Table and figure 2; 92.91% of researchers were aware for using Digital devices or technologies and only 7.89% of users were not aware.

Table 3: Digital Awareness in LIS Scholars through

Awareness in LIS Scholars through	AMU	BHU	Total
Self-study	13(37.14)	5(27.77%)	18(64.91)
Training and workshop	7(20)	2(11.11%)	9(31.11)
Internet access	13(37.14)	9(50%)	22(87.14)
Any others	2(5.71)	2(11.11%)	4(16.82)

Table 3 present the modes used by LIS scholars to aware about new emerging digital technologies As illustrated in the large number, 87.14% sum of users were aware towards digital literacy through “Internet Access”, followed by 64.91% through “self-study”, 31.11% through “training and workshop” and only 16.82% sum of users were aware through “any other” methods.

Table 4: Skill level of LIS Research Scholars to use Digital Technologies

Skill level	AMU	BHU
Not at all skilled	00	00
Not very skilled	02 (10%)	00
Fairly skilled	16 (30%)	08 (66.66%)
Very skilled	10 (50%)	03 (25%)
Expert	04 (10%)	01 (8.33%)
Total	20	12

In regard AMU majority 50% respondents were favoured to very skilled, 30% favoured to fairly skilled, 10% favoured to not very skilled along with Expert. In the BHU results shows that majority 66.66% respondents were favoured to fairly skilled, 25% favoured to very skilled and just 8.33% favoured to expert. The results of DU indicates that 60% respondents were favoured to fairly skilled, 20% favoured to very skilled, 15 favoured to expert and only 5% favoured to not very skilled

Table 5: Tools Used By LIS Research Scholars to Access Research Literature

Tools Used By LIS Research Scholars	AMU	BHU
Search engine	16 (53.33%)	10 (55.55%)
Literature website	08 (26.66%)	3 (16.66%)
Published website	06 (20%)	4 (22.22%)
Any other	00	1 (5.55%)
Total	30	18

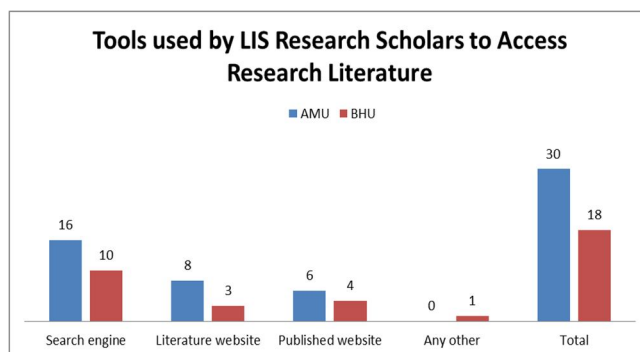


Fig 3

In regard AMU majority 53.33% respondents were searching through search engine, 26.66% searching through literature website and just 20% searching through published website, In the BHU results shows that majority 55.55% respondents were searching through search engine, 22.22% searching through published website, 16.66% searching through literature website and just 5.55% searching through any other methods.

Conclusion

The concept of digital literacy provides the fundamentals of managing digital environments that students need to succeed in their areas of study. So it is very necessary for LIS scholars to keep skills and literacy for using digital tools and technology.

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