

## LIBRARY USE SKILLS AMONG PG & Ph.D. STUDENTS OF PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY: A SURVEY

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper has presented a survey analysis of Library Use Skills (LUS) among PG and Ph.D students of Pondicherry University. This paper highlights the users how to retrieve library resources use their skills. This study is based on 142 questionnaires collect from 130 PG and 12 Ph.D students of respondent. That day user felt very difficult to access library resource. Now impact of ICTs in library and information science a great revolution came in this field. OPAC and RFID are great development in library and information science. So today's users skills also change while retrieving the information. They have different kind of skills of retrieving the electronic resources and others documents through the web and library OPAC. This study display, what library skills have among the Pondicherry university students. This study will be effective to analyze the factors which developed the library skills among students in present situation.

**Keywords:** Library Use Skills, Library Resources, OPAC, RFID, E-resources, Digital Library, Pondicherry University, Use Skills, PG and Ph.D Students.

### 1. DEFINITIONS:

**1.1 Library Use Skills (LUS):** The operational definition according to Moore, (1995) "In an age of abundant information on almost every topic, it is increasingly important that students learn how to locate, select, evaluate, and integrate information from various sources. Library skills can be defined as Competency in the use of the library".

### 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Objectives of the study include the following:

1. To assess the purpose of using library among the students.
2. To assess the level of confidence in using different resources.

3. To assess the attitude of Pondicherry University Students towards using library.
4. To assess the awareness level of library resources of Pondicherry University Students.
5. Find out the users how to retrieve library resources use their skills

### **3. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

Hypotheses of the study include the following:

- H1.** Students with early experience of library have a high level of library skills and confidence.
- H2.** There is a high awareness level of library resource among the students who attend library orientation.

### **4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The investigator should be well aware about the scope of subject area which he or she is going to study further and wants to add more on that existing knowledge area. The topic should have great importance on recent as well as future phenomena of the subject. Before going to start the actual study, the researchers have to be clear about the importance of the field and also the coverage of the selected topic. The topic which have selected to study is of great importance in present context. Impact of Internet and communication technologies has changed the library use skills of students. The study is able to find out the library skills and purpose of using library resources in Pondicherry university students.

### **5. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

For this study, the following scope has been defined.

- Respondents: Only PG and Research scholars are taken into consideration.
- Questionnaires: 150 questionnaires are collected from 200 questionnaires.

### **6. METHODOLOGY**

According to the theoretical studies, there are supposed to be difference in the purpose of using the library among PG and Ph.D. students. Based on the above assumptions, to study interaction between PG and Ph.D. students methodological framework is drawn by applying statistical tools, shown in detail in this article. The research population of this study were selected students of Pondicherry University adopting convenient sampling. Convenience sampling technique is non probability technique where all the elements in the sample frame do not have an equal opportunity of getting selected and the method of selection is through expediency (Yu, J. & Cooper, H. 1983). A questionnaire, was administered and collected from various students both the hostellers and day scholars of Pondicherry University. The questionnaire was divided in some sections on the basis of various objectives. From the total 200

questionnaires distributed among students only 142 students responded back that consisted of the students of Pondicherry University irrespective of their courses discipline.

### 6.1 Survey Data Collection

A survey will be the most appropriate method for this study. The present study, primary data are collected through survey method by preparing Close-ended and Open-ended Structured Questionnaire. Methods of data collection – (i) distribution of questionnaire among the students (ii) Interview with the students.

### 6.2 Statistical Tools and Data Analysis

There are many statistical tools available with new features. Among them, one of the most popular SPSS was used as the main statistical tool to analyze, manipulate and calculate the collected primary data.

### 6.2 Data analysis

The gathered data were analyzed and interpreted with the help of tables. Using several statistical tools namely Cross tabulation, descriptive statistics, reliability test followed by one-way ANNOVA are used in the study to meet the objectives and hypotheses of the study.

## 7. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Here provides the results obtained by using several statistical tools namely Cross tabulation, descriptive statistics, reliability test followed by one way ANNOVA are used in the study to meet the objectives and hypothesis of the study.

### 8. Respondent's profile

The respondents were categorized into various disciplines, Courses. All those details are presented in below:

Table 1: Distribution of sample			Table 2: Course wise Respondents		
Disciplines	Number of Respondents student	Percentage	Course	Number of Respondents student Frequency	Percentage
Science	75	54.8%	Ph.D.	12	8.5%
Social Science	37	26.1%	PG	130	91.5%
Management	07	4.9%	Total	142	100%
Humanities	23	16.2%			
Total	142	100%			

Table 1 shows the distribution of sample among various disciplines in Pondicherry University. This table suggests that representation from science discipline shows the highest percentage (54.8%), followed by

the Social Science and Humanities at 26.1% and 16.2% respectively. The discipline in Management shows the least response of 4.9%.

Table 2 shows that the frequency distribution of respondents based on their course of study (including integrated course). The results suggest that 91.5% of the respondents belong to PG courses (including integrated course) of various disciplines and 8.5% of the respondents belong to Ph.D. courses in different disciplines.

### 8.1 School with library facilities

Here the data analysis pertaining to use of school library has been explained as below:

**Table 3: Use of school library**

Course			Disciplines				Total
			Science	Social science	Management	Humanities	
Ph.D.	School with a library	Yes	7			4	11
		No	0			1	01
PG	School with a library	Yes	53	27	6	11	97
		No	15	10	1	07	33
Total							142

Table 3 shows that 76.05% of the respondents in both PhD and PG students from various disciplines and courses have the habit of visiting the library at their school level while 23.95% of the respondents do not have the habit of using the library in their school. Overall results show that most of the students have the habit of using library since their school life.

### 9. Finding information using several tools

**Table 4: Library skills in locating information**

Course			Discipline				Total
			Science	Social Science	Management	Humanities	
Ph.D	Required information	Self	2			4	6
		Friends	1			1	2
		OPAC	2			0	2
		Others	2			0	2
Total			7			5	12
PG	Required information	Self	24	25	5	6	60
		Friends	19	7	1	3	30
		OPAC	21	4	1	8	34
		Library staff	2	1	0	1	4
		Others	2	0	0	0	2
Total			68	37	7	18	130

Table 4 represent the respondents from both PG and PhD scholar library skills in locating information. From both Ph.D. and PG students 66(46.48%) of the respondents were able to locate their required informational by themselves without an expert intervention, followed by 32(22.53%) of the respondents engaging friends for help; 36(25.35%) of the respondents use OPAC help, 4(2.81%) of the respondents use library staff assistance and 4(2.81%) of the respondents use others help like, internet and soon.

### 10. Cataloguing terms adopted for retrieving information

**Table 5: User cataloguing terms adopted for retrieving information**

Course			Discipline				Total
			Science	Social Science	Management	Humanities	
PH. D	option	Author	3			4	7
		Subject title	4			1	5
Total			7			5	12
PG	option	Author	30	18	2	9	59
		Subject title	35	17	4	9	65
		Class no.	2	2	1		5
		Accession	1				1
Total			68	37	7	18	130

Table 5. Shows that respondents are belong to PG and Ph.D. courses from various disciplines. 66(46.48%) of the respondents indicated that they prefer author name when searching information and followed by 70(49.30%) of the respondents prefer subject title for searching information, 5(3.52%) respondent prefer class numbers and 1(0.70%) respondents prefer accession numbers

### 11. Sources/tools for updating with latest information

**Table 6: Respondents used different tools to keep latest information**

Course		Tools	Discipline				Total
			Science	Social Science	Management	Humanities	
Ph.D	Current information on update	Journal site visit	6			2	8
		periodical section visit	1			2	3
		Friend with similar Interest	0			1	1
Total			7			5	12
PG	Current information update	RSS	5	3	0	0	8
		Journal site visit	34	14	2	9	59
		period sec visit	25	17	3	7	52

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	Friends with similar Interest	4	3	2	2	11
	Total	68	37	7	18	130

Table 6 shows that respondents of Ph.D. and PG Courses from different disciplines. 67 (47.19%) of the respondents who “journal site visit” to retrieve the current information and followed by 55(38.73%) of the respondents who visit “library periodical section”, 12(8.45%) of the respondents follow their “friends with similar interest”. Only PG courses from 8(5.63%) of the respondents visits RSS to retrieve the current information. So majority of 67(47.19%) respondents who “journal site visit” to retrieve the current information

## 12. Hypothesis testing

**Hypothesis 1:** Students with early experience of library has a high level of library skills and confidence.

**Table 7: Level of library skills (One-Way ANOVA)**

Rate	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.007	1	.007	.010	.920
Within Groups	96.225	140	.687		
Total	96.232	141			

According to the results expressed in Table 7 P value is .920 which is greater than 0.05%, so null hypothesis cannot be rejected, hence it is accepted, which indicates the students with early experience of library have a high level of library skills and confidence.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is a high awareness level of library resource among the students who attend library orientation.

**Table: 8 Respondents awareness level of library resources (One-way ANOVA)**

Resource	Rate	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Evaluating information sources	Between Groups	.062	1	.062	.119	.731
	Within Groups	73.747	140	.527		
	Total	73.810	141			
Making a topic searchable	Between Groups	.145	1	.145	.262	.610
	Within Groups	77.405	140	.553		

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using library resources	Total	77.549	141			
Developing a research topic using a variety of techniques	Between Groups	.045	1	.045	.084	.772
	Within Groups	74.434	140	.532		
	Total	74.479	141			
Strong knowledge of every module in the Web portal	Between Groups	.068	1	.068	.142	.707
	Within Groups	67.009	140	.479		
	Total	67.077	141			
Using RFID	Between Groups	.005	1	.005	.008	.930
	Within Groups	83.073	140	.593		
	Total	83.077	141			
Using OPAC	Between Groups	.401	1	.401	.758	.385
	Within Groups	74.029	140	.529		
	Total	74.430	141			
Recognizing the type of Citation	Between Groups	.216	1	.216	.392	.532
	Within Groups	77.024	140	.550		
	Total	77.239	141			
Locating a Book Using Summon and the Catalogue	Between Groups	.078	1	.078	.133	.716
	Within Groups	82.541	140	.590		
	Total	82.620	141			
Using library catalogue	Between Groups	.062	1	.062	.110	.741
	Within Groups	79.747	140	.570		
	Total	79.810	141			
Locating the books from the library	Between Groups	.357	1	.357	.713	.400
	Within Groups	70.122	140	.501		
	Total	70.479	141			

The results expressed in Table 8 in all the above cases P value is greater than 0.05%, so null hypothesis cannot be rejected, hence it is accepted, which indicates that there is a high awareness level of library resource among the students who attend library orientation. In case of “evaluating information sources” p

value is .731, which is greater than 0.05%, so, null hypothesis cannot be rejected and hence it is accepted. So, this is high awareness level of “evaluating information resources” among the students who attend library orientation.

### 13. FINDINGS

The implication of the major themes that emerged from the present study of the students’ library orientation and library skills will certainly have value for other academic library. The outcome of the study leads to the following observation:

#### 13.1 Major findings

- ❖ Above 50% of the respondents are regular users of library. Therefore, students are a regular visitor of library.
- ❖ The respondent of the study comes from heterogeneous group belonging to different States of the country. The majority of the students were doing a postgraduate degree at the university and their ages were varying from 21-25 years. Among the respondents, 67% are male including 8 Ph.D. scholars. All of the respondents belonged to 5 different disciplines from PG and Ph.D. courses.
- ❖ More than 76% of the respondents attended university library.
- ❖ The study also found that the most (55%) of the respondents assess their skill to be “good” in using the library while on the other hand 5% of the respondents self-assess their skills to be “excellent” of using the library.
- ❖ In the case of retrieving information users prefer different Cataloguing terms, the findings shows 50% of the respondents prefer “subject title” for searching information and 47% of the respondents indicated that they prefer “author name”.
- ❖ 41% of the respondents chose “medium” for “Assignment and Seminars”, on the other hand 44% of the respondents chose “medium” for “Academic excellence”, 30% of the respondents chose “high” for “Preparing class notes”, 43% of the respondents chose “medium” for “Casual reading”, 41% of the respondents chose “medium” for “General awareness”, 42% of the respondents chose “low” for “Research assignment”, 49% of the respondents chose “medium” for “Critical enquiry” and 53% of the respondents chose “low” for “Socializing”.
- ❖ Around one third (31%) of the respondents use periodicals regularly, irrespective of their disciplines and majority (73%) of the respondents uses print journals. On the other hand 41% of the respondents use journals to keep abreast of the latest information. Some of the respondents use some other

options like newspapers and general knowledge books etc. They told that 85% of the respondents use Wi-Fi to access their favorite journals from hostel through internet, and 16% of the respondents access their favorite journals from periodical section of the library.

### 13.2 Hypothetical findings

Hypothesis of the study was an origin from the related literature and statistically proven to determine the result of the study.

**13.2.1 Students with early experience of library has a high level of library skills and confidence.**

**13.2.2 There is a high awareness level of library resource among the students who attend library orientation programmes.**

### 13.3 CONCLUSIONS

The study was conducted among the students of Pondicherry University. Base on the present study, it was observed that orientation of library resources and its functionality greatly enhance the use of library resources more effectively and efficiently. Therefore, it is anticipated that orientation and information literacy education be imparted to fresher on their first day and experience using a library. Course work conducted by departments for research scholars pursuing Ph.D. and MPhil can be enhanced by introducing library skill and orientation by imparting ethics of research. The further research should not be limited to a single University; rather it should be conducted on larger geographical and demographic among many Universities.

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