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DIGITAL ACCESS SKILL IN THE WEB AMONG LIBRARY USERS OF PATRICIAN COLLEGE STUDENTS: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses mainly on students' access pattern in online. This study is limited with students doing projects and research works using web e-resources. Using "The information seeking behavior on the web model" created by Choo, Dettor & Turnbull (1998) information seeking skill level in online environment is measured. The primary goal of this study is to create awareness about library subscribed resources. This is a follow up study of "Patrician College Library user study 2014-15" which concluded that most of the students first information search starts from Google and suggested to provide more computers with internet access facility. This article focuses on student's requirement of e-resources and to improve the digital services in library.

KEYWORDS

digital access skill, digital environment, information seeking pattern, user study, digital library user study.

1. INTRODUCTION

atrician College of Arts and Science located in the centre of city Adyar was established in 2001 Christian minority co-educational self-financing institution affiliated to the University of Madras, catering to the educational needs of students. The study is the follow up study of previous minor research entitled "Information seeking behavior of students of patrician college of Arts and Science College Library". In previous study it is found that most of the students' first search of information starts in internet. To find students digital information literacy level and their satisfaction in internet search and to create awareness about lack of authenticity of information available and encourage to use digital resources subscribed by patrician college.

2. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- To study the internet users Digital access skill among students of Patrician College.
- To study web users, search behavior
- To study users' perceptions on e-resources
- To find internet users mindset and their preferences
- To know the use and usage of source of information and format available in internet and
- To create awareness about digital services provided by library.
- To measure PCAS students' satisfaction level in searching internet e-resources.
- To create awareness about authenticated information available under library subscribed e-resources.
- To make them to utilize subscribed e-resources under NLIST Programme.

3. SCOPE OF STUDY

- The study is limited to Patrician College of Arts and Science College library users.
- Period of study is between June and December, 2015
- Study is limited to students referring project related search in internet

4. METHODOLOGY

Using "The information seeking behavior on the web model" created by Choo, Dettor and Turnbull (1998) Internet usage and online behavior is collected through direct interviewing direct observation method. Survey method is used for data collection. 100 questionnaires were distributed among the students and only 85 filled in questionnaires were obtained from them.

Simple percentage method is used for data analysis. Direct Observation of student's access pattern, direct interview and transaction log is observed to get clear view of student's information access pattern in online. Collected data is analyzed using Simple percentage method.

CHOO'S INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOR ON THE WEB MODEL¹

Choo, Dettor and Turnbull New behavior model for information seeking identifies four modes of information seeking on the web.

- 1. Undirected viewing
- Conditioned viewing
- 3. Informal Search
- Formal Search

4.1. UNDIRECTED VIEWING

Searching directly in internet browser without any clear idea about what to find and what to do and navigating all source of links available in the web. Ellis's moves, starting and chaining dominate this mode.

4.2. CONDITIONAL VIEWING

In this mode the seeker views information on a selected topic. The moves anticipated are browsing, differentiating and monitoring.

4.3. INFORMAL SEARCH

The active search of information and understanding of the topic can be broadened and deepened. Moves anticipated are differentiating, extracting and monitoring. **4.4. FORMAL SEARCH**

In this mode searching is planned, structured and deliberate. The searcher is prepared to invert time and effort on the searching. The search is called format because it follows a method. The moves anticipated are extracting and monitoring

'Behavior model of information seeking on the web'

	Starting	Chaining	Browsing	Differentiating	Monitoring	Extracting
Undirected view	х	х				
Conditioned view			х	х	х	
Informal Search				х	х	х
Formal Search					х	х

5. DATA ANALYSIS

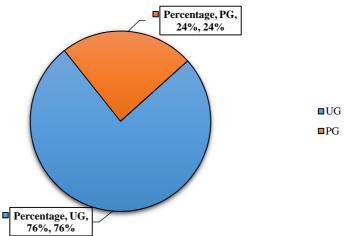
This study is the follow up of previous study that most of the student's information search starts with internet. In order to know their ability to search information, find relevant information, navigating information, differentiating information, monitoring information and extracting information. Through this module it is easy to find their behavior skill level.

TABLE 1: DEGREE WISE RESPONDENTS

Degree	Observant	Percentage		
UG	70	76%		
PG	22	24%		
Total	92	100%		

Table 1 depicts the data of users of library among 92 Observant UG students are more (76%) followed by PG students 24%

FIG. 1: DEGREE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS



5.1 INFORMATION SEEKING MODES AND MOVES ANALYSIS

Students search moves for their project is observed and interviewed directly in e-cabin of library are analyzed through four modes of information seeking 5.1.1. STARTING AND CHAINING

Title search, Company related information related searches are in this moves starting, Chaining.

5.1.2. BROWSING, DIFFERENTIATING, MONITORING

After some idea about title of the project and company next level of moves are browsing, differentiating and monitoring.

5.1.3. DIFFERENTIATING, MONITORING, EXTRACTING

Extracting finalized company for internship by differentiating, Monitoring, Extracting for further comparison with other companies.

5.1.4. MONITORING, EXTRACTING

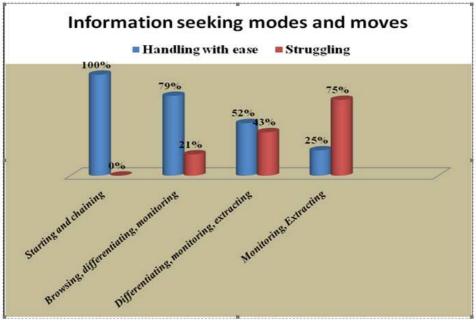
Experienced research scholars are in this moves, keeping on track of updates and keeping alert of interested information for their research work.

TABLE 2: INFORMATION SEEKING MODES AND MOVES

Information seeking modes and moves	Direct Observation & Interview of students			
information seeking modes and moves	Handling with ease	Percentage	Struggling	Percentage
Starting and chaining	92	100%	0	0%
Browsing, differentiating, monitoring	73	79%	18	21%
Differentiating, monitoring, extracting	48	52%	40	43%
Monitoring, Extracting	23	25%	69	75%

Above table shows that respondents as they are digital natives (100%) of students are familiar of internet usage and not struggling in first mode of starting and chaining. In second mode whereas (79 %) of respondents are handling with ease while (18%) are struggling in browsing, differentiating and monitoring. In third mode of differentiating, monitoring, extracting handling with ease minimized with (48%) and (42%) of respondents are struggling in this stage. In the last monitoring, extracting mode most of respondents (75%) are struggling and only very few (25%) are capable of handling information properly.

FIG. 2: INFORMATION SEEKING MODES AND MOVES



5.2 DISTRACTION DURING INFORMATION SEARCH IN WEB

TABLE 3: DISTRACTION DURING INFORMATION SEARCH IN WEB

Information seeking mode and moves	Direct Observation & Interview of students		
mormation seeking mode and moves	Distracted	Percentage	
Starting and chaining	55	60%	
Browsing, differentiating, monitoring	29	32%	
Differentiating, monitoring, extracting	18	20%	
Monitoring, Extracting	0	0%	

The above table depicts distraction level among respondents is more 60% in first mode itself, second mode 32% of respondents gets distracted from their search of information due to irrelevant navigation links. In the third mode only few 20% are distracted from their search whereas respondents are not all gets distracted when they are in final stage of information search monitoring, extracting and they are in more confident in this final mode.

Distraction level Monitoring, Extracting 0 % 20% Differentiating, monitoring, extracting 32% Browsing, differentiating, monitoring 60° Starting and chaining 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%

FIG. 3: DISTRACTION DURING INFORMATION SEARCH IN WEB

6. MAJOR FINDINGS

- Among 92 respondents 100% are handling easily in Digital environment but distraction level is high in First Stage 'Starting, Chaining' of searching 60%
- Out of 92 respondents 73 are handling with ease only 18 of them are struggling in Second Stage 'Browsing, Differentiating, Monitoring' in navigating links and out of 92 respondents 29 are distracted to other sites from their information search.
- Nearly 52% of students are handling easily in filtering their information search with relevant information available in web and 48% are struggling in handling authentic information, Distraction level is minimized in Third Stage 'Differentiating, Monitoring, Extracting' mode of search.
- Very few 25% of respondents are skilled in searching and making alert facility in different forum and updating their research activities, but maximum respondents 75% are struggling in Extracting information and lack of skill in updating but distraction among respondents is nil in Forth Stage 'Monitoring, Extracting'.

7. SUGGESTIONS

- Digital natives are familiar in internet usage but they lack in filtering their required information. Lack of awareness on authenticated e-resources, using mostly first page of Google search as preferred information without taking more effort, for them authenticated websites are recommended.
- Printed Projects are not allowed to borrow, hence E- project submission to library is suggested.

Orientation for students on authenticated databases is in need to avoid distraction during their research.

8. CONCLUSION

According to American Library Association Presidential Committee on Information Literacy's January 10, 1989 report, "Information Literate people are those who have learned how to learn. They know the way to learn because they have learnt how knowledge is organized, how to find information and how to use information in such a way that others can learn from them. They are people ready for lifelong learning, because they can always find the information needed for any task or decision at hand" (ACRL, 2015b)²

Students busy with Google search are given opportunities to use internet in library after their class hours and observed their information literacy in using internet e-resources. Students information search and satisfaction is higher in UG level as they need only search in general. In PG level students, the case is different needed more information for their research work. Students are not aware of E-resources subscribed in Library. Digital Information literacy programme is suggested for the effective usage of library subscribed e-resources for both faculty and students.

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In this age of Commerce, Economics, Computer, I.T. & Management and cut throat competition, a group of intellectuals felt the need to have some platform, where young and budding managers and academicians could express their views and discuss the problems among their peers. This journal was conceived with this noble intention in view. This journal has been introduced to give an opportunity for expressing refined and innovative ideas in this field. It is our humble endeavour to provide a springboard to the upcoming specialists and give a chance to know about the latest in the sphere of research and knowledge. We have taken a small step and we hope that with the active cooperation of like-minded scholars, we shall be able to serve the society with our humble efforts.



