

## Prospects of Information Literacy in Digital Era: A Study among Students of Chaiduar College, Gohpur, Assam

Hemanta Gogoi, Librarian

Chaiduar College, P.O.: Gohpur, Dist: Biswanath, Assam: 784168

Email:hemagogoi@gmail.com, Phone: 9101109416

Accepted 4 May 2021

---

Now-a-days, Information is power. It's the most genuine fact that modern society is based on information and information is all over the place. Information is a precious and invaluable part of our society and great impact upon our lives. In nutshell, humans are the creators, processors and users of information. We are always dependent upon information for making decisions and for fruitful actions. With the information explosion and the complexity of information systems due to advancement in information technology have necessitated information literacy in the society. Those nations which have updated information are treated as more powerful than others. Information literacy is nothing but simply acquiring a set of skills and knowledge that allows us to find, evaluate and use the information we need, but perhaps more importantly, allows us to filter out information we need and don't need. This paper tries to evaluate the pros and cons of information literacy in digital era amongst students of Chaiduar College, Gohpur, Assam.

**Keywords:** Information Literacy, ICT, Cas, Chaiduar College

---

**Cite This Article As:** Gogoi, H. (2021). Prospects of Information Literacy in Digital Era: A Study among Students of Chaiduar College, Gohpur, Assam. *Inter. J. Acad. Lib. Info. Sci.* 9(5): 208-213

### INTRODUCTION

The development of Information and communication Technology (ICT) has a great impact in every field of human life. Presently, information is considered to be one of the priceless commodities in our society. It is an era of information. Today in the knowledge based society where information is treated as an invaluable resource to the social, economic, technological and academic advancement of the society. Now-a-days, lots of information is available in digital form. So knowledge of information literacy is must for handling different tools of information technology. In a sense, role of information literacy is treated very important in digital environment.

*"Information literacy is a set of skills and knowledge that not only allows us to find, evaluate, and use the information we need, but perhaps more important, allows us to filter out information we don't need. Information skills are the necessary tools that help us successfully*

*navigate the present and future landscape of information"* (Eisenberg et al. (2004). Information Literacy is defined as a set of capabilities to select, evaluate and utilize the information in an efficient way. It is crucial skill to stay alive in the digital age as lots of information is coming in every nano second which is challenging for the common man with advance of information technology. Information literacy works as a life jacket to save the human brain from unwanted and unnecessary flow of information.

### Information literacy and role of library:

Information literacy (IL) is a very fundamental ingredient to students' success in the digital age, particularly in higher education. It has therefore become a significant issue in many academic communities. Not only the emerging information and communications technologies (ICTs) and increasing quantities of information, but also broader fluency in the use of ICTs, it

has been recognized globally by institutions of higher learning. For an information based knowledge society, it is becoming imperative for students to accurately understand, utilize and integrate information literacy (IL) skills. Organizing user awareness programme like *Users' Orientation, SDI, CAS, Workshop, Training Programme* are becoming very vital for its users which will help students to identify their required materials without wasting much time and labour.

### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to the undergraduate students of Chaiduar College, Gohpur.

### OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The present study has tried to find out different aspects of information literacy amongst the undergraduate students of Chaiduar College. The study was carried out under the following objectives-

- To determine students' perception of information literacy program in digital era.
- To ascertain students' attitude to the information literacy program in digital era.
- To identify the competency level of information Literacy.
- To know knowledge of using tools of Information Technology.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Chaiduar College has around 2800 students of 4 stream comprising of ARTS, SCIENCE, COMMERCE & B.VOC (B.MLT & Mass Media). The library use to collect feedback forms from time to time to review its users' suggestions and opinion about the library. This study is based on the feedbacks collected in 2019-20 sessions and for our convenient, we taken into consideration 60 respondents selected randomly from all respondents.

### LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

There is always a scope for betterment. The investigator has collected data only from the feedback forms submitted to the library. However, we generally feel that often students fill up their forms casually and sometimes they don't express their views properly. Moreover, only 60 respondents are taken into consideration. However the sample can be increased into a larger no's that may give a more effective and better result.

### CHAI DUAR COLLEGE: AT A GLANCE

Chaiduar College is the leading institution in the higher education in Gohpur Subdivision under Biswanath District, Assam was established in the year of 1967. Presently, it is running having 4 traditional streams; Arts, Science and Commerce and also running B. Voc (Bachelor of Vocational) course like Medical Laboratory Technology and Mass Media with having an intake capacity of around 2800 students and 70 Faculty Members in all stream. The Chaiduar College Library (CDCL) was being established along with its college and presently is a part of the main administrative building. At present it has an asset of 27000+ textual documents, 38 Periodicals, 8 Newspapers, 500+ bound volumes of Journals and Gauhati University Question Papers and more than 120 CDs/DVDs.

CDCL is following the Open Access System where the users are allowed to search their required documents by themselves. It is a great place of desirability for the students and faculty members. The library has been aiming to supplement the knowledge of the students by providing their required documents. The Library was being started digitization in 2015 and an equipped with bar-coding facility. Besides the traditional services, it is trying to offer latest reference and information services to its users. Likewise other libraries, one of the main challenges for the library is to provide all information along with its primary responsibility as College Library with newly introduced CBCS Course with limited resources.

### ANALYSIS OF COLLECTION OF DATA

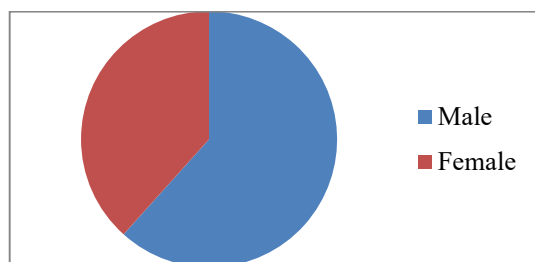
The data collected has been collected and processed in systematic way to get a fruitful result.

#### Gender of responses:

Gender	Total	Percentage
Male	37	61.67
Female	23	38.33
Total	60	

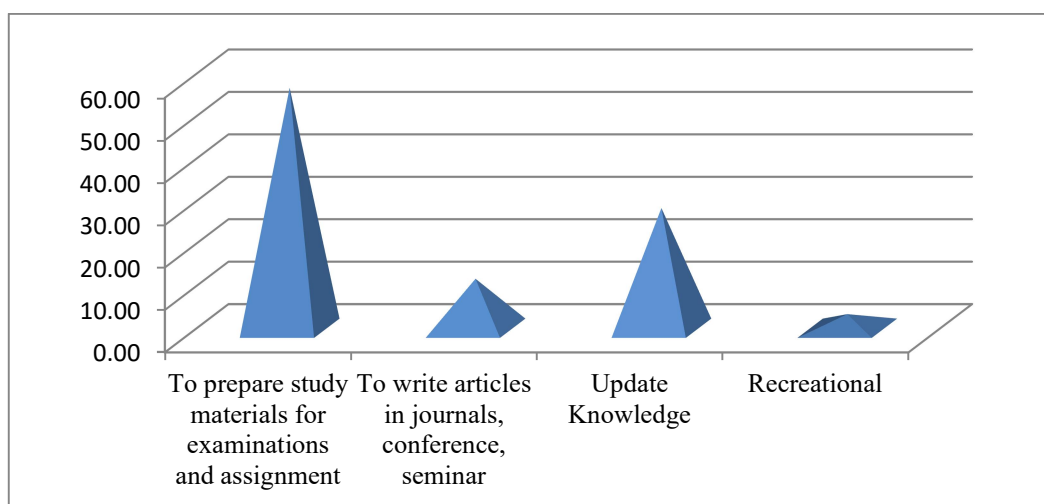
Table No. 1. Gender wise distribution of respondents

The above table shows the form 60 respondents 37 (61.67%) are male and 23 (38.33%) are female students.



Reason of accessing the Information Resources

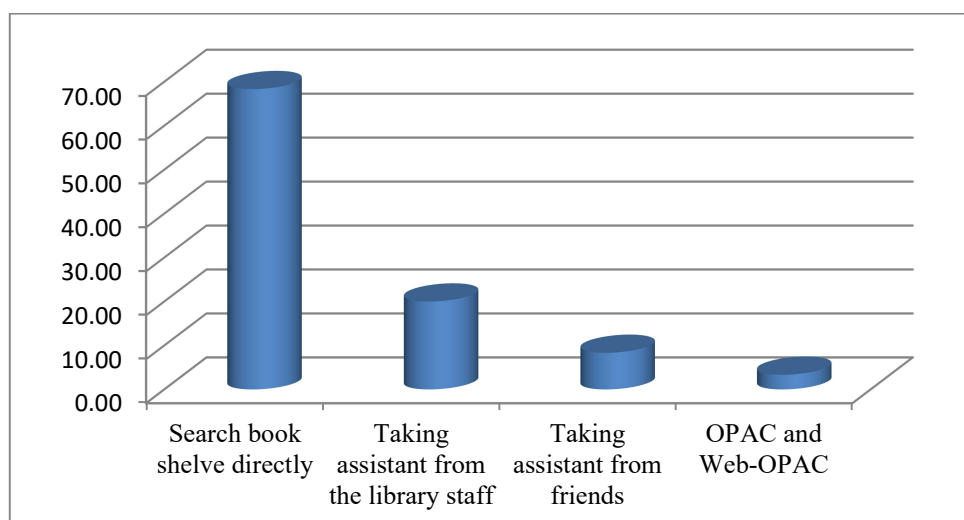
SL. No	Purpose	No	Percentage
1.	To prepare study materials for examinations and assignment	34	56.67
2.	To write articles in journals, conference, seminar	07	11.67
3.	Update Knowledge	17	28.33
4.	Recreational	02	3.33
	Total	60	100



The above table reveals that majority of respondents (56.67 %) uses information resources for preparing study materials and examination purposes. However, 28.33 % respondents uses for updating their knowledge. The main reason purposes of the respondents are exam oriented.

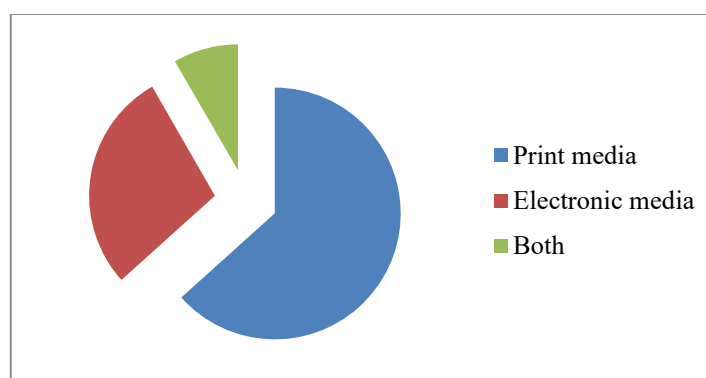
#### Methods used by Students to search documents in library.

S.No.	Methods used by students	Total	Percentage
1.	Search book shelf directly	41	68.33
2.	Taking assistant from the library staff	12	20.00
3.	Taking assistant from friends	05	8.33
4.	OPAC and Web-OPAC	02	3.33
	Total	60	100



#### What sources mostly you use to acquire information

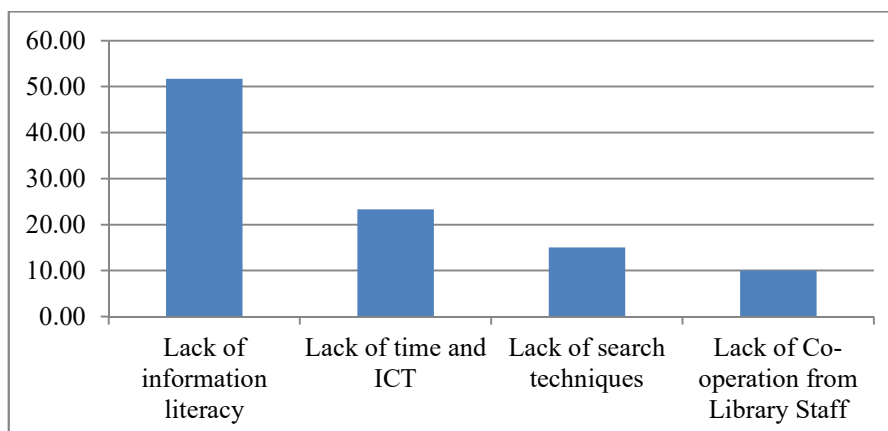
Sl. No.	Sources mostly use to acquire information	Total	Percentage
1.	Print media	38	63.33
2.	Electronic media	03	5.00
3.	Both	19	31.67
	Total	60	100



The above table shows that majority of students 38 (63.33 %) still prefers the printer, however 19 (31.67) % uses both the printed and electronic materials for finding required information. Moreover, only 3 (5%) students prefer the electronic versions of materials.

#### Problems faced while accessing information resources

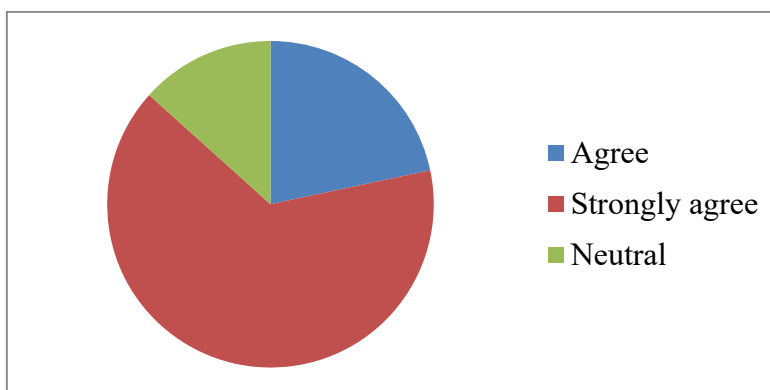
Sl. No.	Problems	Total	Percentage
1.	Lack of information literacy	31	51.67
2.	Lack of time and ICT	14	23.33
3.	Lack of search techniques	09	15.00
4.	Lack of Co-operation from Library Staff	06	10.00
	Total	60	100



The above table shows that out of 60 respondents, 31 (51.67%) expressed their view that due to lack of information literacy, they are unable to find their required materials on time. They may not know how to use different tools and techniques for getting proper information.

#### Importance of Information Literacy programme like User Orientation, User Awareness, CAS, SDI etc:

Sl. No.	Opinion	Total	Percentage
1.	Agree	13	21.67
2.	Strongly agree	39	65.00
3.	Neutral	08	13.33
	Total	60	100



The table reveals that majority of students 39 (65%) are strongly agree on the view of organizing different Information Literacy Programmes like User Orientation, User Awareness, CAS, SDI in college.

#### FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

The main aim of present study is to develop the information literacy knowledge of the undergraduate students of Chaiduar College, Gohpur. It is common belief to all that due to explosion of information and increase the level of awareness to know something new lead to grow lots of new inventions and discoveries. We

are in the ocean of information now-a-days. Within nano seconds, lots of new things are coming. But in the mean time, we are also in the garbage of unnecessary and unwanted happenings which may not be useful for all. In the age of Information, we always fill confusion to find out our required information on right time. Same case is also happening in libraries. The main motto of modern day libraries is to provide the right information to the right user

at the right time without wasting. From the practical experience, it is noticed that most of students believe that best source of information in library for their study are the text book only; but they don't know that there are lots of secondary and tertiary sources, other than the primary information resources like periodicals, encyclopedia, E-journal etc are also available in library. In generally, most of the students visit the library during free time or library periods, but they aren't able to pick up the necessary information due to literacy skills. So it's time demanding for all of us to literate the students, in order to effective utilization of information resources. The major findings of the study are briefly discussed as below:

1. The study shows that majority (56.67 %) of students of Chaiduar College have purpose of accessing the information resources is to prepare study materials for examinations and assignment. (Table no-7.2).

2. Majority respondents 38 (63.33 %) still love to use the Print Materials although we have lots of materials in digital. however 19 (31.67) % uses both the printed and electronic materials for finding required information. Moreover, only 3 (5%) students prefer the electronic versions of materials. (Table no- 7.4 )

3. Out of 60 respondents, 31 (51.67%) expressed their point of view that due to lack of information literacy, they are unable to find their required materials on time. They may not know how to use different tools and techniques for getting proper information. (Table no- 7.5 )

4. The main motive of the study is to scrutinize the importance of information literacy in digital age amongst under graduate students of Chaiduar College, Gohpur. Majority of students 39 out of 60 (65%) strongly feel necessity of organizing Information Literacy programme like User Orientation, CAS (Current Awareness Service), Training Programme in Colleges in order to cope up with the growing changes in digital era. (Table no- 7.6)

Based on the study on information literacy in digital era amongst students of Chaiduar College, Gohpur, the following recommendations have been advised:

The every college library must conduct a user orientation program at the starting of a new session for students especially for the new or first year students on how to utilize library resources and what information contained in various reference sources available in their library.

1. Librarian should also need to assists students for training program and knowledge of information literacy at the libraries premises.
2. In co-ordination with the faculty and administration, the librarian should design an information literacy course module to train the students.
3. Faculty member should inspire students to explore the unknown after guidance on how to fulfill information needs.
4. To conduct regional level Seminars, Workshops, Conference be organized by collaboration of other colleges & university in order to redefine and restating the role of information literacy in the growing digital environment.

## THE FINAL TOUCH

Information Literacy is an important tool for the present generation students. They are often confusion to get the right and required information. As today's students are treated as backbone of tomorrow's society, it the duty and responsibility of all to guide them in a proper way in order to achieve their goals. They must be properly trained to utilize the resources.

***"Train Today For Better Tomorrow"***

## REFERENCES

1. Anandhalli, G. (Mar 2018). Impact of information literacy skills on the academic achievement. *International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Literature*, Vol. 6 (Issue 3), 1-16. Retrieved Jan 18, 2020.
2. Murugan, M., & Thirumagal, A. (2019). ; Saravanakumar, Dr.R.R.; and , "Awareness of Information Literacy Among Students of Arts and Science Colleges in Tirunelveli – A Study". *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 2451. Retrieved Feb 06, 2020
3. Singh, B. (2019). Knowledge and Awareness of information literacy among B.Tech. Students: a case study of engineering colleges of Jaipur Rajasthan. *International Journal of Digital Library Services*, Vol. - 4(Oct-Dec (Issue-4)), 22-30. Retrieved Feb 02, 2020
4. Syamalamba, R. (2011). Information literacy programmes for undergraduate students. *International Journal of Digital Library Services*, Vol.: 1(Issue-I), 49-61. Retrieved Jan 28, 2020