



# Digital Information Literacy among college teachers in colleges in Buldana district: a Study

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## Abstract

Digital information literacy is the ability to access, evaluate, and apply information from a variety of e-resources in appropriate contexts to construct knowledge. The purpose of this study is to expect to explore and investigate the interpretation of faculty on digital information Literacy (DIL) and their skills and competencies in using Digital Information. This study has informs various types of DIL skills and capability required for Faculty members of ICT, constraints affecting related skills, competencies and suggested suitable measures to meet the challenges. Presently, information literacy has inevitably been influenced extensively by developments in technology with the emergence of digital information literacy.

**Keywords:** Digital literacy, Electronic Information Resource Literacy, Information Literacy, College teachers, Buldana district.

## 1. Introduction

ICT media had widened the limits and bounds of Library. ICT has revolutionalised the field of library and information services. Now it would not be confined to library premises only, but gamut of knowledge is open to whole world through Internet media. Our society has been changing due to rapid development and diffusion of information and communication

technology (ICT) into fields such as education, business, health, agriculture, and so on. Information users may be bewildered by a variety of digitized information. A.P.J.Kalam postulated four types of connectivity to effectively bond cities and villages: physical, electronic & knowledge connectivity leading to economic connectivity of rural areas--with a lesser urban-rural divide. The process of identifying and selecting information has become complex. It is critical to promote information literacy (IL) in the digital age. To live and work in the technology-enabled world of the 21st Century, high-level skills in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) are essential for all citizens. How about inventing a new phrase, 'Covidity is the mother of Invention!' The world at large, and India in particular saw the emergence of robust online connectivity, and its overwhelming impact was witnessed on every sphere of activity—commercial, personal, social...

## 2. Digital Information Literacy

The process of identifying and selecting information has become complex. It is critical to promote Information Literacy (IL) in the digital age. Now computers have become a necessary part of the digital society and skills for computer use are a common prerequisite on many job applications. Association of College and Research Libraries (2000), define Information Literacy as “a set of abilities requiring individuals to determine the extent of information needed, access the needed information effectively and efficiently; evaluate information and its sources critically, incorporate selected information into one’s knowledge base; use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose; understand economic, legal and social issues, surrounding the use of information ethically and legally”. Further, it also helps to manage and maintain the information, provides means of access to the information search for information and gather, evaluate and use information.

### Digital literate people are able to:

The following definition has been used as basis of the study for information literacy. The ability to understand and use information in multiple formats from a wide range of sources when resented via a computer (Glister)

- Determine the extent of digital information needed,
- Access the needed digital information effectively and efficiently,
- Evaluate digital information sources and services critically,
- Incorporate selected digital Information in one’s knowledge base,
- Use of digital information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose; and
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of digital information access and use of information ethically and legally and respectfully.

### Aims and Objectives:

1. To study digital information literacy among researchers.
2. To set the priorities for promotion of digital information literacy among them.

### 3. Methodology :

For data collection e mail survey method was used. Questionnaire method is used to receive data on computer literacy, digital information competency, training, and orientation, the role played by the library, etc., from the respondents. Due to paucity of time questionnaires were distributed among the teachers of various colleges

### 4. Colleges in Buldana district:

Amravati University was established on Maharashtra Day, the 1st May 1983 to cater to mostly the educational needs of rural population of western Vidarbha. The university has its jurisdiction within five districts of Vidarbha viz. Amravati, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldana and Washim. SGBAU Amravati maintains a conducted Model Degree College at Buldana and four Faculties satisfying the knowledge appetite of the students. Currently the university is serving more than 19 colleges in Buldana district, many colleges has good no of students and staff.

**Table 1. Distribution of Questionnaires Gender wise :**

Sr. No	Gender	No. of Questionnaires distributed	
		No	%
1	Male	43	71.66
2	Female	17	28.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

N=41

The Table 1 shows the distribution of questionnaires to respondents. The researcher observed that 71.66% of the researchers are male and the remaining 28.33% of researchers are females.

### 5. Types of E-Information Sources

According to Wikipedia, Electronic Resources means "Information (usually a file) which can be stored in the form of electrical signals, usually on a computer; Information available on the Internet". The questionnaire asked about types of electronic information sources needed by the research scholars. Table 1 below illustrates the information sources.

**Table 2. Types of e-information needed**

Sr. No.	e-information sources	Yes		No	
		No	%	No	%
1	E-Book	27	65.85	14	34.14
2	E-Journal	27	65.85	14	34.14
3	E-Newspaper	14	34.14	27	65.85
4	E-Magazines	12	29.20	29	70.73
5	Indexing and Abstracting Databases	08	19.51	33	80.48
6	E-mails	28	68.29	13	68.29
7	News / Journals	23	56.06	18	43.90

N=41

Table 2 reveals that, the demand for e-books & e-journals is the greatest, i.e., 65.85. Electronic newspapers, magazines are needed by 34.14 & 29.20 respectively. The need for other sources of e-information such as indexing and abstracting databases, e-mails, news/Journals etc. is not significant.

### 6. Purpose for Using E-Resources

It has been found out that they use e-resources mainly for assignments, class work and entertainment purposes with research scholars having an upper hand in their use.

**Table 3: Purpose for using e-Resources**

Sr. No	Using e-resources	Yes		No	
		No	%	No	%
1	Class work	27	65.85	14	34.14
2	Research knowledge	22	53.65	19	46.34
3	Entertainment	12	29.26	24	58.33
4	To keep up-to-date	26	63.41	18	43.40
5	Research project	17	41.46	24	58.52
6	Seminar	10	24.39	31	75.60

N=41

Table 3 (above) reveals that 65.85 respondents stated that they need e-resources for class work, while 63.41 respondents need it to keep their research knowledge up-to-date, followed by 41.46 for research projects & 24.39 for seminar.

## 7. IT Skills of Research Scholars

The technology revolution has made information technology skills, or IT skills, essential in almost every industry. Most people rely on several IT skills in their workplaces.

The table given below shows that only 70.73% of the respondents have knowledge MS office. A significant number 65.85 %, however have working knowledge of business IT solutions, followed by 34.14 % in multimedia, but only 14.63%% in operating skills applications.

**Table 4: IT skill of the Research Scholars**

Sr. No	IT Skills	Yes		No	
		No	%	No	%
1	Operating skills	06	14.63	35	85.36
2	MS Office	29	70.73	12	29.22
3	Business IT solutions	26	65.85	14	34.14
4	Multimedia	14	34.14	27	65.85

N=41

## 8. Use of Internet Search Tools

There are two main ways of finding web sites:

1. Search Engines
2. Links from trusted web sites

We will spend the most time with search engines, The pattern of use of search tools by research scholars are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5: The use of Internet Search Tools**

Sr. No	Internet search tools	Yes		No	
		No	%	No	%
1	Search engines	27	65.88	14	34.15
2	Subject gateways	11	26.82	30	73.17
3	On-line databases	08	19.51	33	80.45
4	Digital library	05	12.19	31	87.80
5	Meta search engines	09	21.95	32	78.04
6	Web portals	04	9.75	37	90.24

N=41

Table 5 discloses that 65.88% researchers use search engines for searching the Internet. All other search tools are used only by a small group of researchers. Only 26.88% respondents use subject gateways, 19.51% use online bibliographic databases, and 12.19% use digital libraries, meta search engines use 21.95%, 9.75% use web portals.

## 9. Evaluation of Web Resources by Research Scholars

The author identified in this study that 68.29% of the researchers evaluate the information on the basis of authority they obtain from the internet in some way. The 53.65% respondents consider "Accuracy", and 31.70% consider "Objectivity" & "Usability" the most important criteria for evaluation.

**Table 6. Evaluation of web resources by the Research Scholars**

Sr. No	Evaluation of web resources	Yes		No	
		No	%	No	%
1	Authority	28	68.29	13	31.70
2	Objectivity:	13	31.30	28	68.29
3	Accuracy	22	53.65	19	46.84
4	Currency	11	26.82	30	73.17
5	Usability	13	31.70	28	68.29

N=41

## 10. Findings

An 80% of the research scholars who responded to the survey expressed their need for electronic information in addition to traditional print sources;

A majority of the university research scholars (86.11%) have Internet knowledge, Search engines are most frequently used for browsing and searching on the web. Other tools such as subject gateways, bibliographic databases, digital libraries, etc., are used much less;

Authenticity and reliability are the most important parameters for evaluation of online information and all respondents expressed the wish that the library would take initiative in promoting information literacy at the college level. Information Literacy could play key role in adopting e-resource. Libraries should offer hard copies as well as soft copies at nominal prices for promoting Library Users to monetarily support the ICT services to keep functioning at all times. A majority of research scholars use e-information in order to update their knowledge in their respective subject area. More than 70% use e-resources for the purpose of research support, collection of research materials, and preparation of scholarly articles for publication; Short Term Training Program ICT awareness program need to be organized through short term training programs.

## 11. Conclusion

Today's Library can hardly be a competent Information Centre without deployment of ICT, because every reader, while seeking aid of Library, wishes to acquire proper and perfect information immediately without any time lapse. A lot has to be done in this regard and this paper is just an initial attempt. Basing on the data collected it can be concluded that the information users are to be trained to acquire DIL competence.

Researchers' use of information technologies is becoming an important educational objective. Universities should take a lead role in spreading knowledge of digital information resources.

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