Understanding information seeking behavior of ophthalmology students in tamilnadu

Abirami. V, .Dr. M. Jayaprakashi
abimanunonce@gmail.com, lisjayaprakash@gmail.com

Abstract

Purposes of this study investigate to the information seeking behavior of ophthalmology students. The objectives of the study are to identify the ophthalmology student's information usage behaviour such as what kind of search engine, databases and social networking they have to use. And find their barriers. The data for the study is collected from the ophthalmology students in the period of 2021. A questionnaire method was used in this study. This study shows the results Out of 213, 147 respondents use Google, remaining 66 (31.0%) respondents use Yahoo. MS-Excel and SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) software's for use data entry and data analysis. H test (Non Parametric test-Kruskal Wallis H test) used by the SPSS. Finding of the study, it's clear that Google search engines were mostly used by the ophthalmology students. Majority of the students 118 (55.4%) use NOD (National Ophthalmology database), 55 (25.8%) students use Medline database. It's clear that 95 (44.6%) percentage of ophthalmology students use WhatsApp for information seeking.

Keywords: *Information seeking behaviour, ophthalmology students, libraries.*

INTRODUCTION

Information seeking behaviour is a part of the curricula of several libraries. This study recently investigation has been carried out in to how ophthalmology students searching information for their needs (Younger, 2010). This study is one of the important because this is one way to analyse to how a user seeks their information and how users fail to access the accurate information in their libraries. Student's information seeking process is the most important component of library activities (Abirami & Jayaprakash, 2021). Students are using to seek information from the search engines such as the Google, Yahoo, and Bing. They are using social networkings such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram, Instagram and Twitter. In that time students are facing some barriers such as the specific information not available, difficulty to downloading electronic information, and they are facing inadequate searching skills. So an Ophthalmology student wants to some improvements in their libraries.

Review of Literature

Literature related to the information seeking behaviour showed that there related to ophthalmologist. This study concludes that the ophthalmologist librarians, institutions, and ophthalmology communities should conduct programmes to improve the literary skills (Govindarajan 2019). Several studies related the study scholarly communicated the other disciplines such as the information seeking by (Deshpande, 2020): information using in databases (Ebrahimzadeh et al., 2020); and the topic on internet usage and information seeking behaviour of the medical colleges (Rajawat, 2020).

Context and problem statement/ research question

We found no studies that have investigated on information seeking behavior of ophthalmology students in Tamil Nadu. Hence, the present study is set to throw light on ophthalmology student in Tamil Nadu.

Materials and Methods

The data for the study is collected from the ophthalmology students in the period of 2021. A questionnaire method was used in this study. A total of 250 questionnaires were distributed to ophthalmology student in Tamil Nadu. Out of 250 questionnaires distributed only 213 questionnaires were received back. Each questionnaire has 11 questions. First part have the gender, age and area, second part have students information seeking behaviors, barriers of information seeking time and third part have the what kind of improvements students want in their libraries. This questionnaire has been distributed in Tamil Nadu ophthalmology students. We have used MS-Excel and SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) software's for data entry and data analysis. H test (Non Parametric test-Kruskal Wallis H test) used by the SPSS.

Results and Findings

The study found that information seeking behavior among the ophthalmology student's total respondents 213. Out of 213, the majority of the respondent 123 (57.7) are male and 90 (42.3). This study results clears that information availability was 73 (34.3) of the respondents use social networking, 53 (24.9) of the respondents use libraries, 42 (19.7) of the respondents use internet, 32 (15.0) of the respondents use electronic databases and remaining 13 (6.1) of the respondents use online discussion. Hence it's clear that majority of 73 (34.3) the ophthalmology students use social networking. Ophthalmology student's regards that the information seeking behavior on search engine, databases, social networking. Out of 213, 147 respondents use Google, remaining 66 (31.0) respondents use Yahoo. Hence it's clear that Google search engines were mostly used by the ophthalmology students. Majority 118 (55.4) students use NOD (National Ophthalmology database), 55 (25.8) students use Medline database, 26 (12.2) students use Up-To-Date database, and 14 (6.6) students use PubMed database. Hence it's clear that the 118 (55.4) students use NOD (National Ophthalmology database) for their information needs. 95 (44.6) percentage of ophthalmology students use whatsapp, 73 (34.4) of students use Telegram, 32 (15.0) of students use facebook, 7 (3.3) percentage of students use twitter, 6 (2.8) percentage of students use instagram for information seeking. Hence it's clear that 95 (44.6) percentage of ophthalmology students use whatsapp for information seeking. Frequency of library usage among the ophthalmology, majority 142 (66.7) students use library 1 hour for per day, 46 (21.6) of students use library 2 hours per day, remaining 25 (11.7) students use library more than 3 hours per day. The majority 67 (31.5) of the students want to improve both ways like print resources, electronic resources, reference materials and journals for their libraries. 56 (26.3) of the respondents want to improve their printing resources their libraries, 35 (16.4) of the respondents want to improve their electronic resources for their libraries, 34 (16.0) of respondents want to improve reference materials their libraries and remaining 21 (9.9) of the respondents want to improve their journals for their libraries. Hence it's clear that the majority 67 (31.5) of the students want to improve both ways like print resources, electronic resources, reference materials and journals for their libraries. Kruskal Wallis H test for

Area of improvement and the age of the respondents, it's inferred that there is no significant relationship between the respondent's age and their area of improvements for their libraries. The p-value 0.086; which is more than 0.05 so null hypotheses for accepted. Hence there is no significant relationship between the respondent's age and their area of improvements for their libraries.

Discussion and conclusion

This study concludes that 95 (44.6) percentage of ophthalmology students use WhatsApp for information seeking. Majority 142 (66.7) of respondent's frequency of library use 1 hour, per day for information seeking. Majority of respondents 79 (37.1) of the respondents face the Inadequate searching skills barriers at the information seeking time. The p-value 0.086; which is more than 0.05 so null hypotheses for accepted. Hence there is no significant relationship between the respondent's age and their area of improvements for their libraries. Training programs are required to help ophthalmology students to find and access reliable and up-to-date information resources. The ophthalmology students may need information literacy programmes, and providing books. This would be helping ophthalmology students to re-find information for the future use.

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