

THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES THROUGH LIBRARY AND INTERNET RESEARCH SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

According to a presidential decree dated 20 June 2006 “On the organization of Information and library services for the population of Uzbekistan”, the libraries of higher education institutions began to function as Information Resource Centers (IRCs). Developing students’ library skills is most important in high educational establishments, teachers both librarians should be aware of how to prepare students for doing independent research out of classrooms and campus so that students can attain and develop skills at the best and most relevant times. It has become obvious that developing students’ library research skills is vital in Universities, institutes as these skills when used in integrity with Information skills based on Communication technologies may lead to better academic achievements, goals, high productivity and makes students be more autonomous in gaining knowledge, developing their competencies and should be included into Curricula as a part of study program from undergraduate levels and above.

Keywords; *Students' Competences; Internets Research Skills; Library*

INTRODUCTION

According to a presidential decree dated 20 June 2006 “On the organization of Information and library services for the population of Uzbekistan”, the libraries of higher education institutions began to function as Information Resource Centers (IRCs). The teaching and learning processes experienced by specific communities are addressed by libraries in educational institutions. An academic library is a library that is a part of a college, university, or other post- secondary educational institution (higher education) and is managed to meet the scholarly information and research needs of its students, faculty, and staff. Individual academic department or schools within large college or university libraries frequently have separate libraries with collections devoted to their subject or discipline, such as Philosophy or Psychology University library: University library’s collection includes materials for post – graduate students as well as resources with sufficient breadth and depth to support serious scholarship in all fields. In fact, the collection covers a wide range of topics for learning, teaching, research, and publishing. It has a general collection, rare materials, newspapers and periodicals, government publications, and special

materials like theses, dissertations, archives, clippings, visual and audio-visual materials, digital objects and more.

Using a large academic library for the first time can be a daunting experience. With literally thousands of books, e-books, online journals, and other resources, tracking down the sources of information you need for your academic work can sometimes seem confusing and time consuming.

However, learning to use the library and its resources is an important skill to master. By finding and using good quality information in your assignments, you are demonstrating to those marking your work that your opinions are informed and built on research conducted by experts in your field. This is an essential skill to demonstrate in order to attract top marks for your work.

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages which was founded in 1994, November 8. It has been functioning as one of the financially independent institutions that provides access to its collection both for teachers, researchers and students. Nowadays, it serves more than 12000 users of books. The Library and Information Center has been reconstructed and renewed for better services and support. It has a number of rich collections consisting of hundreds of books on Languages, Literature, Methodology and others. It has a general collection, rare materials, newspapers and periodicals, government publications, and special materials like theses, dissertations, archives, clippings, visual and audio-visual materials. In addition to the print books in the libraries, we also have an extensive collection of more than 22,000 full text e-books. E-books are great because you can access them at any time and quickly search the whole of the text for relevant information. Many of e-books can also be downloaded to your own device so that you can read them offline digital objects and more.

One of the major and important challenges in learning is to enable students to do library research and create conditions to meet the intellectual, spiritual, moral, cultural and educational needs of students. Moreover, it is necessary to ensure mutual use of information and library resources on the basis of modern information and communication technologies. Therefore, instructors and professionals in high education should constantly update reliable language information, present in electronic form and on the internet, necessary for training and information support.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The available literature on developing students' basic library research skills is abundant and has been used effectively to improve the quality of education. It is important to note that students must develop library research skills in order to complete academic assignments in most subjects throughout their academic years and get benefit from library research. This research article focuses on students' ability to use libraries as a learning tool for improving their academic or transferable skills. Therefore, the intended audience of this research is of educational and academic setting.

Libraries are welcoming havens for ideas that everyone can enjoy, value, and use on a regular basis. Long passageways to rows of books are almost always present in libraries. It contains materials that are organized in a specific order according to a library classification scheme, making it easier to find items and browse collections. Aside from the public galleries, some libraries have private galleries where reference materials are kept. Selected members may have access to these reference stacks. Others require patrons to make a "stack request," which is a request that an assistant retrieve material from the closed stacks. In today's world, most libraries offer free access to their entire collection.

The previous understanding of a library ("library" comes from the Latin word *liber*, which means "book") was that it was "a store house where books were meant to be preserved." The librarian was supposed to be a guardian who discouraged people from using books. As a result, libraries have a reputation for being passive and archival institutions. A library in the modern sense, is a collection of information resources and services that are organized for use and maintained by a library authority or government. People make use of the collection and services. According to the American Library Association's glossary of Library and Information Science. A library is a collection of materials organized to provide physical, bibliographical, and intellectual access to a target group, with a staff trained to provide services and programs related to the target groups information needs." A library is a public institution or establishment charged with the care of a collection of books, the duty of making them accessible to those who require their use, and the task of converting every person in its neighborhood into a habitual library goer and reader of books," says Dr. S.R.Ranganathan, India's father of library science.

The term "Library Collection" is also widely used it is a library's total collection of books and other materials, organized and catalogued for easy access by its patrons. The sum total of library material-books, manuscripts, serials, government documents, pamphlets, catalogues, reports,

recordings, microfilms reels, micro cards and microfiche, punched cards, computer tapes, that make up the holding of a particular type of library, according to the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science.

Modern libraries are being redefined as places where people can get unrestricted access to information in a variety of formats and from a variety of sources. They are understood to extend beyond the four walls of a building by including material accessible through electronic means and allowing librarians to assist users in navigating and analyzing vast amounts of data using a variety of digital tools.

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) has developed Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education that transcends specific disciplines, defining dispositions of successful students in the higher education setting. With an emphasis on developing skills that enable synthesis and critical evaluation of information in support of lifelong learning, five standards, each with several specific performance indicators, have been developed so that librarians and other higher education faculty can identify essential competencies, design curricula to help students achieve those competencies, and develop assessment tools to evaluate how well students are meeting those desired outcomes (ACRL, 2000). The standards include the following:

- 1) The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
- 2) The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
- 3) The information literate student summarizes the main ideas to be extracted from the information gathered.
- 4) The information literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
- 5) The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally (ACRL, 2000).

The conclusion in a report, published by The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in 2000, is that students need to develop Information Literacy competency in higher education setting. The research is titled “ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education” explored standards for students to help them achieve essential competencies in doing library research so that they could use needed information effectively and rightly. It is

essential that information literate student has better understanding in gathering information, summarizing, accessing and using information relatively.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

Students with library research skills are better placed to produce high quality academic work and to fully benefit from a research-based education.

Library skills incorporates the skills needed to effectively find, evaluate, manage and use information. It is essential for students to develop and refine their library and information literacy skills, knowledge and behaviors in order to achieve academic success and benefit their life beyond university, from the professional workplace to everyday living and participating in society. Moreover, students should be able to identify their reader's personality

Developing students' library skills is most important in high educational establishments, teachers both librarians should be aware of how to prepare students for doing independent research out of classrooms and campus so that students can attain and develop skills at the best and most relevant times. Moreover, teaching students make most of library should be included into Curricula as a part of academic study program. Where possible, library skills teaching should be integrated at different stages of the program, with essential skills introduced when students first start at UCL, and more in-depth skills teaching offered at various stages, for example at points where students will be expected to do extended reading around their subject or in preparation for a particular research project or dissertation.

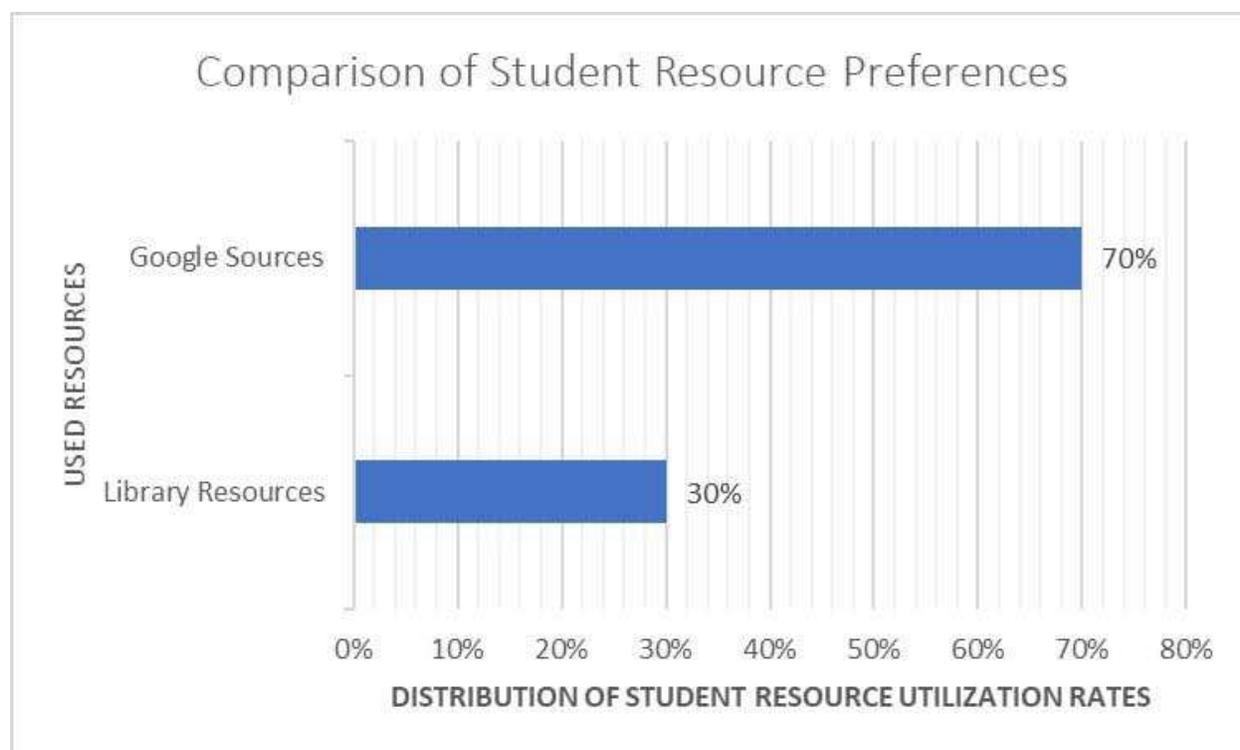
How Library research is organized and used in high educational establishments now? The question is interesting and disputed due to some points. There are number of reasons why doing library research has a positive impact on teaching and learning. Firstly, it makes learning more autonomous and personal. It is up to educational establishment to decide how they use library research to support teaching and learning based on what is best for their students and teachers.

In Uzbekistan, for example, the universities and institutes use Library Research Centers to provide students with books, manuals and even e- books across the university building or campus and allow students to copy and get information from there. Besides that students may stay in separate classrooms and work using resources, many students bring digital devices, such as notebooks , smartphones or memory cards to transfer and utilize information Teachers and educational administrators are also responsible for making sure all students get membership in

their libraries, trained librarians should conduct regular workshops for undergraduates and novice teachers to be working together, can participate actively in library learning process and students' provision should be high. For that reason, it is important that the curriculum and syllabus must include library research skills of students as a part of platforms.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

As an associate professor of English Language Theoretical Aspects Department, I asked other teachers to conduct the survey in the groups where they teach language aspects. There are 33 teachers and mainly 8 subjects taught in the chair. In March 2023, I have conducted the questionnaire survey at the English faculty-II, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign languages. Around 40 undergraduates participated in the survey which resulted in 30% saying they occasionally use library resources, while still utilizing the Google sources more for doing their assignments. The graph below illustrates the survey result:



It also confirms the fact that many students do not usually go to Information resource centers due to some reasons:

- Lack of time and it might be connected with overloaded schedule;
- enough space or comfort zones;
- low motivation of students;

- inaccessibility of some resources;
- lack of trained librarians or specialists.

So, academic institutions or establishments should create necessary facilities for students as well as researchers, teachers.

SUMMARY

It has become obvious that developing students' library research skills is vital in Universities, institutes as these skills when used in integrity with Information skills based on Communication technologies may lead to better academic achievements, goals, high productivity and makes students be more autonomous in gaining knowledge, developing their competencies and should be included into Curricula as a part of study program from undergraduate levels and above. Thus, as discussed above, developing students' competencies through library and Internet research skills reveals some challenges which students face while studying. The first is well-trained library professionals who could assist and provide students with necessary information at any relevant time. The second is including research skills into the part of curricula and syllabus. The third is raising students' interests on making the most of library and internet by creating comfortable learning zones with better conditions and conveniences. At least, reasons for students' neglect on using library and research skills is defined by the survey conducted among undergraduates in our faculty stating that many students give their preferences for ready-made resources from internet without doing research or spending time in the library. So, educational administrators, teachers and librarians are all responsible for preparing good and highly qualified personnel for better prosperity and welfare of the country.

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