

Reading Habits of P.G. Students In Pure Sciences: A Case Study of University of Lucknow, Lucknow

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Abstract

Everyone knows that motivation always increases the reading preferences of the readers. Reading not only gives satisfaction but also fosters student's command over language and works as a channel for learning about other societies and cultures. So students should always be motivated towards reading and encouraged to read different kind of text books in various foreign languages too, maybe as a part of core or elective papers. With the help of reading students gain knowledge about real world It helps in improving their performance in exams as well as academic success, but it is not a very easy task to inculcate reading habits among students. This study of reading habits of post graduate students of pure science in Lucknow University can raise educators' awareness about the reading tendencies of these learners. So the study is conducted on this. So the study is conducted to investigate the reading habits of PG students of Science Stream of Lucknow University.

Keywords: Reading Habits, Reading Preferences, PG Students

Introduction

Everyone knows that reading is basic activity that is essential for language build up and life long learning to all the learners. In today's era the ICT is important component of education system. These technological changes are increasing day by day. The learners of today have to cope up with these technological changes and acquire new knowledge skills, for getting any information they are much dependent on ICT tools and good quality books. Therefore for quality of education reading habits should be inculcated among students. Reading creates a kind of relationship among people across the boundaries of time, place and distance. The reading habits develop over a period of time that's why it is necessary to motivate students for reading. Reading helps in interpreting new words, learning new concept and word and gives a way of thinking to individual;

Review of Literature

Agatha Gifty Larson (2020) The study is conducted to assess the reading habits among students and its effect on their performance. It is done in Koforidua Polytechnic situated in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Questionnaire is used for study. The data was analysed with the help of SPSS package. Around 95 % questionnaires were received. The finding shows that most of users have acknowledged the reading. The study highlighted that reading habits have direct effect on academic performance of a student. The suggestion was given that handouts of lectures should be given to students as it forced them to read the books. The faculty should encourage students to read.

Alley Erdum (2019) In this study reading habit pattern of students studying in the Ankara University Department of primary education and Archives university history dept were conducted. The study reveals that the questionnaire were distributed to 326 students and the results were found that university students read novels, newspapers, magazines in leisure time and enjoy reading the literary works. They enjoy it as due to busy social life, for preparation of examinations, entertainment, humor and to satisfy their psychological needs.

Lucknow University has central Library named as Tagore Library. It is also the Central research Library. It is one of the oldest well organized and rich in cultural heritage such as manuscripts of India. With the advancement the library is also changing its working and format of processing. The maintenance of library is very important for any university. The then college library is changed to University central library and University of Lucknow came into existence in 1920.

The study examined reading habits on the basis of time/period of study duration, place of study, materials used for study.

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Objectives of The Study

1. To find out the usage of print vs non print media habits of the P.G. students of pure sciences of Lucknow University.
2. To analyze the various types of resources available in the library of Lucknow university
3. To study the reading habits of Post Graduate of pure sciences in Lucknow University.
4. To identify the types and range of reading resources used currently by Post Graduate students and determine the level of the use.
5. To find out the relationship between the reading habits of P.G. student of pure sciences and the course material of their study.
6. To find out the frequency of visit of P.G. students of pure sciences in the library of Lucknow University.
7. To study the information needs and seeking behavior of Post Graduate Students.
8. To investigate the availability of information resources searched by the P.G. students of pure sciences in library of Lucknow university.
9. To suggest measures for enhancing the use of information sources and seeking a synthesis of theoretical elements from information science.

Scope of The Study

The study covers the University of Lucknow because it is a state university and it is located in the capital of Uttar Pradesh.

This study also helpful in knowing sources of reading habits of pure sciences of Lucknow University either they use print media more or they use non print media (internet, e-books, e-journals etc).

Librarian

The library is headed by Honorary Librarian.

Staff

The details of staff are as under:

S.No.	Designation	Strength
1	Librarian	One
2	Deputy Librarian	One
3	Asst Librarian	Three
4	Information Scientist	One
5	Reference Assistant	One
6	Documentation Assistant	One
7	Cataloguer	Two
8	Office Superintendent	One
9	Assistant Superintendent	One
10	Assistant Accountant	One
11	Junior Stenographer	One
12	Junior Library Assistant	Nine
13	Binding Assistant	One

For the analysis and findings 60 questionnaires has been distributed and only 50 questionnaires has been received and the results are as follows:

Table- 1, Age of The Respondents

S.No.	Age of The Respondents	No. of Students
1.	21	9
2.	22	17
3.	23	18
4.	24	6
	Total	50

Table 1 shows the age of the respondents. There are about 9 students of the respondents are of 21 years old, 17 students are of 22 years, 18 students are of 23 years and 6 students are of 24 years.

Table-2. Gender of The Respondents:-

S.R.No	Gender of The Students	No.Of Students
1.	Male	28
2.	Female	22
	Total	50

Table 3 is showing the courses opted by the students of P.G. of pure science of Lucknow university and the results are as follows:

Table-3. Courses Opted in Pure Science By The Students of P.G. of Lucknow University

S.No.	Courses of Pure Science	No.of Students Pure Science
1.	Physices	5
2.	Biochemistry	10
3.	Zoology	12
4.	Botany	10
5.	Maths	5
6.	Chemistry	8
	Total	50

Table 3 shows that out of 50 respondents there are only 5 respondents who have opted physics to do P.G., 10 students of the respondents opted biochemistry, 12 students have opted zoology, 10 students have selected to do P.G. BY botany, only 5 students are of maths and 8 students have opted chemistry to do P.G.

Table-4. What Information Source Do You Prefer For Finding General Information Of Your Course?

S.No.	Information Source Prefer For Finding General Information	No. of Students
1.	Library	15
2.	Internet	17
3.	Professors/Lecturers	18
4.	Others	00
	Total	50

Table 4 shows preference of the students of P.G. of pure science for finding general information of their course and the results are as follows:

Table 4 shows that out of 50 respondents 15 students prefer library for finding general information 17 students prefer internet for finding general information and 18 students out of 50 respondents prefer professors and lecturers for finding general information.

Table-5. What Type of Information Resources Are Available In The Library of Lucknow University You Use?

S.No.	Type of Information Resources Available In The Library Of Lucknow University	No. of Students
1.	Books	20
2.	Internet	5
3.	Seminar Papers	3
4.	Journals	9
5.	Reference Sources	13
6.	Patents	00
	Total	50

Table 5 shows that what type of information resources are available in the library of lucknow university that the students use and the results are:

In table 5 the result came out is that out of 50 respondents 20 students use books as a type of information resource available in library of Lucknow university, 5 students use internet, 3 students use seminar papers, 9 students use journals and 13 students use reference sources as a type of information source available in the library of Lucknow university.

Table-6. What Is The Frequency of Your Visit To The Library In A Week?

S.R.No	The Frequency of Visit To The Library In A Week	No. of Students
1.	Daily	14
2.	2 Days	8
3.	4 Days	18
4.	6 Days	10
	Total	50

Library and Information Centre is a knowledge bank considered to be the heart of the university enriched with a variety of information sources and services in print and electronic format to support learning, teaching and research. Attempts were made to understand the habit of using the library by the Post Graduate students in a university. Table 6 showing the frequency of visits to the library.

It is clear from the Table 6 that, all the respondents of the study i.e. Post Graduate students pure science of university area in the habit of using the library. Among them, about 14 respondents visit the library everyday, 8 respondents visit the library two days in a week, 18 respondents visit 4 days in a week, 10 respondents visit the library 4 days.

Table-7. Are You Using Print Resources Or Information Or Non Print?

Table 7 indicates that how many students use print resources and how many prefer to use non-print resources and the ratio is as follows:

S. No.	Using Print Resources or Non Print	No. of Students
1.	Print	23
2.	Non-Print	27
	Total	50

Table 7 shows that 23 students out of 50 respondents use print resources and about 27 students use non-print resources.

Table-8. How Much Time Spent Per Day On Reading?

S.No.	Time Spent Per Day On Reading	No. of Student
1.	3 Hours	7
2.	5 Hours	22
3.	6 Hours	13
4.	8 Hours	8
	Total	50

Reading is a prime necessity whether one reads for pleasure or knowledge and to learn or write. It is also the main hope of being able to lead a better and fuller life. A large amount of reading is required for the purpose of education, for the development of general knowledge and also for recreation. Table 8 indicates how much time is spent per day on reading by the students and the results are as follows:

Table 8 shows that 7 students out of 50 respondents read only 3 hours per day, 22 students read 5 hours per day, 13 students read 6 hours per week and only 8 student out of 50 respondents read 8 hours per day.

Table-9. Whenever You Perform Your Search, You Expect To Find:

S.No.	Expectation of Pattern of The Search Perform	No. of Students
1.	Full Text	22
2.	Abstract/Summary	13
3.	Index	4
4.	Whatever Available	11
	Total	50

Table 9 shows that whenever the students perform their research, what is their expected pattern of the search. The result are:

Table 9 indicates that 22 students of 50 respondents expects full text whenever they perform their research, 13 students expectation is of abstract, only 4 students want index for their research and 11 students expect that in whatever pattern information available for their research is enough.

Table-10. What Is Your Personal Preference Of Channels In Finding Information Of Your Course?

S.No.	Personal Preference of Channel In Finding Information	No. of Students
1.	Online	22
2.	Offline	28
3.	Others	00
	Total	50

Table 10 shows that what are the personal preference of channels in finding information used by the students of pure science of Lucknow university:

In table 10 clears that 22 students have the personal preference of channel in finding information is online out of 50 respondents and 23 students have the preference of channel in finding information is offline.

Table-11. How Often, When Using The Electronic Or Paper Resources Do You Need Help?

S.No	Frequency of Need of Help In Using The Electronic or Paper Resources	No. of Students
1.	Very Often	9
2.	Often	6
3.	Sometimes	28
4.	Seldom	7
	Total	50

It is clear from the Table 11 that, 9 respondents very often they need instruction on how to use information sources in their subject areas for more effective use of the library. While 6 students said that often they need help in using information resources in their subject areas 28 respondents said that sometimes they need instruction on how to use information sources and 7 students of 50 respondents have said that they seldom need help to use information resources. Thus, most of the respondents of the study opined the need for instruction on using information sources in their subject areas.

Table-12. What Are The Library Services Do You Use Frequently?

S.No.	Library Services Used Frequently	No. of Students
1.	Reference Service	24
2.	Photocopy Service	7
3.	Cd-Rom Service	2
4.	Reservation Service	17
	Total	50

It is indicated from the Table 12 that, among the various information services, reference service 24 is very often used service as compared to other library services. About 7 students of the respondents use photocopy service of library services, only 2 students of 50 students use CD-ROM search and 17 students of 50 respondents use reservation service.

Table-13. What Is Your Frequency of Using These Library Services Given Above?

S.No.	Frequency of Using Library Services	No. of Students
1.	Never	00
2.	Sometimes	22
3.	Occasionally	13
4.	Often	8
5.	Very Often	7
	Total	50

It was asked to the Post Graduate students as to whether how frequently they use library services. The table 13 shows the result:

In table 13. frequency of using library services, 22 students of the respondents use library services sometimes, 13 students use library services occasionally, 8 students use library services often and 7 students use library services very often.

Table-14. In The General Task Of Searching For Information Did You Encounter Any Difficulties?

S.No.	Encountered Difficulties In Searching For Information Online	No. of Students
1.	Cannot Locate The Targeted Sources	11
2.	Does Not Have Enough Time To Search	8
3.	Cannot Access The Source	9
4.	Receive A Flood Of Source	15
5.	Use of Wrong Keywords	17
6.	Others	00
	Total	50

Table 14 shows that what are the difficulties were encountered by the students of P.G. students of pure science in searching for information online, and the results are as follows:

Table 14 indicates that 11 students said that the difficulty that they encountered in searching their information is that they cannot locate the targeted sources, 8 students said that they does not have enough time to search, 9 students said that they cannot access the source of their information, 15 students said that they receive a flood of information which creates difficulty in searching the information and 17 students said that they often use wrong keywords because of that they encounter difficulties.

Table-15. How Do You Feel Tagore Library of Lucknow University's Environment?

S.No	Tagore Library of Lucknow University's Environment	No. of Students
1.	Excellent	10
2.	Good	21
3.	Satisfactory	19
	Total	50

Table 15 show that what the students feel about Tagore library of Lucknow university's environment and the results are as follows:

Table 15 indicates that only 10 students feel excellent about the Tagore library of Lucknow university's environment, 21 students out of 50 respondents feel good about the environment of the Tagore library and 19 student are only satisfied by the environment of the Tagore library of Lucknow university.

Table-16. In What Way Do The Library Of University Meet Your Information Needs?

S.No.	Way The Library of University Meet Your Information Needs	No. of Students
1.	The information that i got is relevant	26
2.	The information that i got covers the scope of my topic	23
3.	The information that i got is up to date	01
4.	Others	00
	Total	50

Table 16 shows that in what do the library of university meet the information needs of the students of pure science and the results are :

Table 16 indicates that 26 students said that most of the information they got are relevant, 23 students out of 50 respondents said that the information that they got covers the scope of their topic and only 1 student said that the information that they got is up to date.

Table-17. What Are Your Ways Of Assimilating Knowledge?

S.R.No.	Ways of Assimilating Knowledge	No. of Students
1.	Summarization	4
2.	Self Test	8
3.	Summarization And Self Test	6
4.	Summarization And Memorization	2
5.	Self Test And Memorization	2
6.	Summerization, Memorization And Self Test	25
7.	No Response	3
	Total	50

Table 17 shows that what are their ways of assimilating knowledge:

Table 17 clears that only 4 students use the way of summarization for assimilating knowledge, 8 students use self test, 6 students use summarization and self test both for assimilating the knowledge, 2 students use summarization and memorization, 2 students use self test and memorization out of 50 respondents, 25 students ticked the sixth option that is summarization, memorization and self test and 3 have not given any response to this question.

Table-18. What Are Your Reading Plans?

S.No.	Student's Reading Plan	No. of Students
1.	Use of Reading Time Table	17
2.	Reading The Subject of Choice	02
3.	Use of Reading Time Table And Reading Subject Choice	19
4.	No Response	12
	Total	50

Table 18 shows the reading plans of the students:

Table 18 clears that 17 students use time table in plan of their reading, 2 students read the subjects of their choice, 5 students use both reading plans that is use of reading the time table and reading the subjects of choice and 12 students have given no response to this particular question.

Table-19. What Is Your Choice Of Place Of Reading?

Table 19 shows that what are the choice of place of reading:

S.R.No.	Choice of Place of Reading	No. of Students
1.	Library	05
2.	Class/Lecture Room	06
3.	Quiet Place	11
4.	My Room	08
5.	All of Above	20
	Total	50

1.	Library	05
2.	Class/Lecture Room	06
3.	Quiet Place	11
4.	My Room	08
5.	All of Above	20
	Total	50

Table 19 indicates that 5 students prefer library for place of reading, 6 students have the choice for reading is class/lecture room, 11 students out of 50 respondents prefer quiet place for reading, 8 students prefer their own room for reading and 20 students said that they prefer all of the above options for reading.

Table-20. What Is Your Motivation For Reading?

S.No.	Motivation For Reading	No. of Students
1.	Pass Examination	4
2.	Personal Knowledge And Skill Development	10
3.	Pass Examination And For Self Development	19
4.	All of Above	17
	Total	50

Table 20 shows that what are their motivation for reading:

It is noted from the Table 20 that, about 4 respondents are motivated for reading is to pass the examination, about 10 respondents are motivated for reading is personal knowledge and skill development, 19 students from the respondents are motivated for reading is passing the examination and for self development and about 17 students are motivated for reading are all of the options.

Table-21. What Is Your Purpose Of Using Library?

S.No.	Purpose of Using Library	No. of Students
1.	To Read/Borrow Book	25
2.	To Consult Periodicals	07
3.	To Read News Papers	14
4.	Photocopying of Materials	00
5.	To Use Internet	04
	Total	50

Table-22. Are You Satisfied By The Resources Of Information Available In The Library Of Your University? Yes Or No Please Specify Why?

S.No.	Satisfied By The Resources of Information Available In The Library Of Your University	No. of Students
1.	No	18
2.	Yes	30
3.	Both Opinion	02
	Total	50

18 students have said no, they are not satisfied by Tagore library of Lucknow University.

30 students have said yes, they are satisfied with the Tagore library of Lucknow University.

2 students have both the opinion about the Lucknow University.

The reasons given by the students of P.G. of pure science that why they are satisfied by the resources

of information available in the library of their Tagore library of Lucknow. They are as follows:

1. The print resources in the library of lucknow university are quit relevant to their course.
2. Resources of information available are of good quality and with the reach of all the students.
3. The library is having a wide variety of books for the pure science students.
4. Closely attached with Tagore library which provides us the ocean of knowledge.

The reasons given the students of P.G. of pure science that why they are satisfied by the resources of information available in the library of their Tagore library of Lucknow. They are as follows:

1. Old books are in very bad condition so, he resources are not easily available to the students.
2. In the library of Lucknow university there is very low category of digital library.
3. In the library only print materials which are available are so far relevant but in today's time online and up-to-date information is most important for the students and the library of Lucknow university has not so good facility of on-line information.
4. Non-print materials in the Tagore library are not so good enough.
5. Catalogues of the library are not updated and digital library is also not so satisfactory.
6. Most of the requested books are not enough copies so, the books and journals which we need or which we want to consult are not available because they are already issued.
7. The resources like science journals are very old, most of them are very old publication and available very few.
8. The resources of information available do not hold importance in present time as they are very old.

Suggestions Given By The Students On The Library of Lucknow University To Fulfill The Expectation of The Post Gratuade Students of The Pure Sciences?

The students have suggested the following suggestions:

1. To bring more authentic books regarding P.G. students of particular to pure science subjects.
2. Requirement of good internet network facility for the students to make them up-to-date in their subject without wasting time.
3. Availability of science journals should be easy and more reading materials for the science students.
4. Tagore library of Lucknow University should be accessible to students on web at their space.
5. Xerox machine should available for the students to save their time and energy.
6. Catalogues should be updated of the tagore library.
7. Cleanliness is important in the library.
8. Digital library should be more enhanced.
9. Students of pure science should be provided by more updated journals by the library.
10. The resources of the Tagore library should be available online beside they are offline.
11. The student of pure science should have all the journals and periodicals of good quality at their demand.

12. More of the international journals and the periodicals should be available for wide scope.
13. Students of pure science should have separate space available in the Tagore library.
14. Most of the days the server of the tagore library is down so there should be good networking.
15. More and more science periodicals and resources should available.
16. The space should be provided with the computer systems having international reference and internet connections for the students to surf their requirements.
17. More specialized reading materials of pure science should available.
18. The Tagore library should be enriched with more and more international papers and journals.
19. Library of Lucknow University has lot of old stock of books which are now not totally used by the students , so these books should be replaced and renewed to save the space of the library.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to describe the reading habits of a group of post graduate learners of pure science of Lucknow University. Findings from this study will provide insights into the reading behaviors of these students as well as help raise awareness on the role of reading toward the achievement of academic success. Overall findings of the study reveal that the post graduate learners of pure science of Lucknow University read different types of reading materials, have different reasons for reading as well as demonstrated language preference in reading.

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