

Undergraduate's Perspectives on Information Literacy Program: an institutional experience

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Abstract

Information Literacy (IL) skill is essential for academic library users, directly affecting their academic performance. IL skill allows them to find, select and acquire quality information when necessary. This paper describes the third-year undergraduate's perspectives on the Information literacy lecture series conducted by the Allied Health Sciences library, Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka. IL lecture series consists of four components; Information Sources, effective search strategy, search techniques, PubMed searching, referencing, and Mendeley. Survey methodology has been used for the study, and the data collection tool was the questionnaire. Only the BPharm Hons and BSc Hons in Medical laboratory Sciences students were considered for the study. The majority of the respondents stated that Information literacy skills are essential for achieving academic goals. The study reveals that most of the undergraduates (65%) preferred to access google for information searching instead of databases. It might be due to the inadequacy of awareness on databases and search techniques. Accordingly, Respondents rated the IL lecture series as vital since it provided them a practical guide on database use, search techniques, and evaluating information sources. 74% of participants were unaware of evaluation criteria of information sources and used to refer to unreliable information sources. It was found that undergraduates do not follow reference management software and face many issues manually preparing bibliographies. According to the majority of the findings, reference management software is essential for them. Inadequate hand on the session was identified lacking parts of the program. According to the study, it can be suggested to add more IL lecture components and conduct lectures in the first year to final year students that will enhance their IL skills.

Keywords: *Information literacy, Undergraduates, search strategy, reference management, information sources*