January 2020

Access to Wikipedia among the Library Users of the University of Mysore, Karnataka

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Abstract

The present study has been carried out to ascertain the level of usage of Wikipedia among the library users of University of Mysore. To conduct this study, the questionnaire method was adopted. Simple random sampling was adopted for data collection. In total 150 questionnaires were distributed and 137 responses were received. The response rate was 91.33 percent and the users' opinions that Wikipedia is very helpful to study purpose and also to get more information on a specific topic. The users point out that the access to Wikipedia is essential for updating the knowledge.

Key Words: Information Access; Wikipedia; University Library; Users

Introduction:

Today information sources are widely available through print and electronic forms. Most of the electronic information sources are accessible through Web. Wikipedia is one of the best open access sources for all most all community to get the ready information on many topics. It's a branch of a crowd sourced encyclopedia this page contains huge resources of many languages and millions of articles. Many users usually access in Wikipedia as first for the information sources. Nowadays Wikipedia acting the role most significant in the digital era, it's a collaborative work of all, basically each searching people views the information at Wikipedia for related information. The Wikipedia pages are editable form, everyone create/edit any page using on the web browser and completely information giving out through on the server.

Wikipedia as a good platform of digital information and a community of editors are support to build a Wikipedia pages. Many academic and research information easily access through Wikipedia with the help of hyperlinks, It's not a page it's a repository of all kinds of general and specific information. In this context point out Wikipedia sources

are a lot of informative and updating information providing pathfinder to users forever. It helps the academic and research purpose and given needful basic information and education instrument of easy access. This paper seeks to know the access to Wikipedia among the library users of University of Mysore.

Objectives of the Study

The study was conducted based on the following objectives:

1. To know the use of Wikipedia among the users of the library.
2. To identify the place, frequency and purpose of access to Wikipedia
3. To find out the time spent and ways to learn to use Wikipedia
4. To know the difficulties faced by users to access Wikipedia
5. To identify the assistance obtained from library staff for searching Wikipedia.
6. To find out the extent of satisfaction of users in accessing Wikipedia sources.

Methodology of the Study

The data were collected with the help of a structured questionnaire prepared in a very simple English language. The simple random sampling method was used to collect data from the respondents. In total 150 questionnaires were distributed to library users and 137 responses received back. The response rate was 91.33 percent. Analysis of the data was done by using the percentage, mean value and standard deviation calculation. The study is confined to only the library users i.e., students and research scholars of University of Mysore.

Results

Demographic details of the respondents

The demography of the sample respondents such as gender, age, designation, and the department is important for the present study. The data collected from the research scholars and students are presented in table 1.

Table 1
Demographical distribution of respondents

Variables	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	SD
Gender				
Male	65	47.45%	68.5	4.949747
Female	72	52.55%		

Total	137	100.00%		
Designation				
Students	82	59.85%	68.5	19.09188
Research scholars	55	40.15%		
Total	137	100.00%		
Age				
21-24	71	51.82%		
25-28	39	28.47%		
29-32	16	11.68%		
33 and Above	11	8.03%		
Total	137	100.00%		
Department				
Commerce	23	16.79%	11.42	6.287915296
Botany	22	16.06%		
Economics	16	11.68%		
English	13	9.49%		
Kannada	13	9.49%		
History	11	8.03%		
Zoology	10	7.30%		
Sericulture	7	5.11%		
Master of Social Work	6	4.38%		
Philosophy	6	4.38%		
Sociology	5	3.65%		
Political Science	5	3.65%		
Total	137	100.00%		

Table1 shows the demographic distribution of the respondents. Out of 137 respondents, 72 (52.55%) are female and 65 (47.45%) are male. 82 (59.85%) of them are students and 55 (40.15%) of them are research scholars.

Table 1 also shows that there are four age groups of respondents. Among them 21-24 age group is occupied predominantly with 71 (51.82%) respondents, followed by 25-28 age group with 39 (28.47%), 29-32 age group with 16 (11.68%), the small part of the respondents are in the age group of 33 and above with 11 (8.03%).

The questionnaires were collected from 12 departments and got 137 respondents. The highest number of respondents are from the commerce department, i.e. 23 (16.79%), the less number of respondents are from sociology and political science departments i.e. 5 (3.65%) each.

Table 2

Frequency of visit to the library

Sl. No	Frequency	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	SD
1	Daily	55	40.15%		
2	Twice a week	36	26.28%		
3	Weekly	22	16.06%	27.4	18.31119876
4	Fortnightly	11	8.03%		
5	Occasionally	13	9.49%		
	Total	137	100.00%		

Table 2 shows the frequency of visit to the library. It is found that 55 (40.15%) of users visit the library daily. 36 (26.28%) visits twice in a week, 22 (16.06%) visits weekly, 13 (9.49%) of visits occasionally and only a small percentage (11; 8.03%) of them visits fortnightly.

Table 3
Point of access to Wikipedia

Sl. No	Point of access	Respondents N=137	Percentage
1	At the library	109	79.56%
2	At department	87	63.50%
3	At the cyber center	76	55.47%
5	At home	47	34.31%
6	Any other place	17	12.41%

Table 3 shows that most of the users are accessing the Wikipedia in the library (109 ; 79.56%). It is followed by 87 (63.50%) at the department, 76 (55.47%) at cyber center, 47 (34.31%) at home and 17 (12.41%) of them in different places access the Wikipedia.

Table 4
Frequency of use of Wikipedia

Sl. No	Frequently	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	SD
1	Daily	33	24.09%		
2	Twice in a week	27	19.71%		
3	Weekly	25	18.25%	22.83	7.494442385
4	Fortnightly	19	13.87%		
5	Monthly	11	8.03%		
6	Occasionally	22	16.06%		
	Total	137	100.00%		

Table 4 shows the frequency of use of Wikipedia. It was found that, 33 (24.09%) users access daily, 27 (19.71%) users access twice in a week, and 25 (18.25%) users access weekly, 22 (16.06%) users access occasionally, 19 (13.87%) users access fortnightly, and only a small percentage (11; 8.03%) of users access monthly. Thus, the majority of users are regularly access to Wikipedia.

Table 5
Time spent to access Wikipedia in a week

Sl. No	Time spent to access	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	SD
1	Less than 1 hour	88	64.23%		
2	1-2 hours	44	32.12%		
3	3- 4 hours	5	3.65%	27.4	38.57201058
4	5-6 hours	0	0.00%		
5	More than 6 hours	0	0.00%		
	Total	137	100.00%		

Table 5 shows the data about the time spent by the respondents to access Wikipedia in a week. The majority of the respondents (88 ; 64.23%) using Wikipedia less than an hour in a week, followed by 44 (32.12%) users 1-2 hours in a week, and 5 (3.65%) users spent 3-4 hours in a week.

Table 6

Purpose of using Wikipedia sources

Sl. No	Purpose of use	Respondents N=137	Percentage
1	To prepare seminar and assignment works	129	94.16%
2	For study purpose	120	87.59%
3	Finding relevant information	115	83.94%
4	Project and dissertation works	82	59.85%
5	For carrier development	75	54.74%
6	For research works	55	40.14%

Table 6 reveals that majority (129 ; 94.16%) of the respondents were used Wikipedia for preparing seminar and assignment works, followed by 120 (87.59%) users were used for study purpose, 115 (83.94%) users for finding relevant information, 82 (59.85%) users for project and dissertation works, 75 (54.74%) users were for carrier development. 55 (40.14%) and only using for research works.

Table 7

Sources of guidance received to access and use Wikipedia

Sl. No	Sources of guidance	Respondents N=137	Percentage
1	Through the Internet	113	82.48%
2	Guidance from the other students	79	57.66%
3	Guidance from library staff / Librarian	41	29.93%
4	Guidance from teachers	33	24.09%
5	Guidance from computing staff	27	19.71%

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It is clearly shows from the table 7 that, majority (113; 82.48%) of the respondents express that they learned the use of Wikipedia through Internet, followed by 79 (57.66%) express that they received guidance from other students, 41 (29.93%) them from library staff, 33 (24.09%) of them from teachers, and 27 (19.71%) of them got guidance form computing staff.

Table 8

Opinion of the respondents towards the use of Wikipedia

Responses	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	SD
Difficult	27	19.715%		
Not difficult	110	80.29%	68.5	58.68986284
Total	137	100.00%		

Table 8 shows that out of 137 respondents the highest respondents (110; 80.29%) not face any difficulties while accessing Wikipedia, whereas 27 (19.71%) were facing difficulties while accessing Wikipedia. The reasons for the difficulties in using Wikipedia are huge information, sometimes it is difficult to find relevant and precise information, and more information is not there in Kannada language.

Table 9

Seek the assistance of library staff while accessing Wikipedia

Assistance	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	SD
Getting	29	21.17%		
Not getting	108	78.83%	68.5	55.86143571
Total	137	100.00%		

Table 9 indicates that the majority of respondents (108; 78.83%) were not taken any assistance of library staff for accessing Wikipedia. Followed by 29 (21.17%) of respondents were taken help from the library staff while using Wikipedia.

Table 10

Extent of satisfaction about Wikipedia resources

Sl. No	Extent of satisfaction	Respondents	Percentage	Mean	SD
1	Highly	19	13.87%		
2	Moderately	99	72.26%		
3	Slightly	12	8.76%	34.25	43.44632704
4	Seldom	7	5.11%		
	Total	137	100.00%		

Table 10 reveals that, 99 (72.26%) of respondents were moderately satisfied, 19 (13.87%) highly satisfied 12 (8.76%) slightly satisfied and only 7 (5.11%) of them seldom satisfied in using Wikipedia resources.

Conclusion

Wikipedia sources are very helpful to users in updating their knowledge in this digital era. The present study has indicated that the Wikipedia sources are highly useful for the getting basic information in the present environment. The information provided should be relevant, up-to-date and in-depth on almost all branches of knowledge. If it is so it will play a significant role in the knowledge society.

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