

# **The Impact of Internet on the Reading Habits of Undergraduate Students of Government Hamidia Arts and Commerce College, Bhopal: A Survey**

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## **Abstract:**

Reading is a way to get better knowledge of one's own experiences and it can be an exciting journey to self-discovery. The purpose of this study is to try to understand the reading habits of undergraduate students of Government Hamidia Arts and Commerce College, Bhopal and to study the effects of internet on their reading habits. The total number of students participating in the survey is 150, and the questionnaire was distributed to them after random sampling. The results reveal whether students enjoy reading, their frequency of reading books, what genre they prefer to read, the factors that influence their reading habits, and impact of the internet (ICT) media on their reading habits.

**Keywords:** Reading Habit, Internet age, Information Technology, Online resources, Reading Behavior, UG students

## **1. Introduction:**

Reading is one of the oldest habits of human civilization and possibly the only one without a worthy substitute. Reading has been the passion of the greatest personalities of all time. Reading is one of the other tools for self-development and learning, and it is important that we see books in a positive interplay with other media. The library is the richest information treasure of human knowledge and cultural wealth. This should be able to meet effectively the challenges of the new technology revolution. The concept of reading is of particular interest to libraries by virtue of the fact that libraries are major providers of information materials, especially within the university environment.

Recent developments in information and communication technologies especially the Internet has brought out significant changes in the reading habits of readers in accordance with the ways we generate, store, access, repackage and make use of information. Factors affecting reading habits are educational qualifications, nature, and need of the reader; nature, cost, and availability of reading materials; and the way of interaction of users and information. The internet offers an environment for the reading of various kinds of literature in digital format. To find any information now a day people are approaching digital material or the internet immediately rather than printed reading materials.

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## 2. Review of Literature:

The notion of digital literacy has changed over time due to technological advancements, the growth of the web, a rise in Internet usage, and the incorporation of digital technology into various industries and aspects of people's life (Özparlak, 2022). Paul Glistler coined the phrase "digital literacy" in 1997 to describe a person's capacity to comprehend and utilize information supplied through computers in various formats and from a wide range of sources (Reddy et al., 2020).

Owolabi & Attama (2009) argue that the value of academic libraries resides in the guidance they provide as well as the technical infrastructure they develop and maintain. Libraries, therefore not only ensure the provision of reading materials but also ensures their use through appropriate guidance to users. Nnadozie & Egwin (2008) note that reading is an important method of acquiring information, knowledge, experience, and learning.

It is in line with this that Alegbeleye (2008) sums up that the library is the best learning resource center for effective reading. Reading according to Fatimayin & Lawal (2010) connotes the ability to read well not only English language and literature texts, but also newspapers, magazines, journals, and periodicals, and engaging in both recreational and academic reading. Collins & Cheek (1999) describe reading as a process that requires the use of complex thought processes to interpret printed symbols as meaningful units and comprehend them as a thought unit to understand a printed message.

## 3. Objective of the study:

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

- (i) To know the interests in reading materials among college students.
- (ii) To know the purpose of usage of the library by the UG students.
- (iii) To know the spending time of the UG students in the library.
- (iv) To know the frequency of library visits among UG students.
- (v) To know the problems faced by UG students in finding accurate information.
- (vi) To know the impact of the internet (ICT media) on their reading habits.

## 4. Methodology:

For this study questionnaire was prepared and distributed randomly to 160 students undergraduate students of various faculties of Government Hamidia Arts and Commerce College, Bhopal, in which a filled questionnaire was received from 93.75% of students.

## 5. Data analysis & Interpretation:

### 5.1 Frequency of visit to the College Library

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Almost Daily    | 55 out of 150 (36.67%) |
| Once in a week  | 31 out of 150 (20.67%) |
| Twice in a week | 51 out of 150 (34%)    |
| Occasionally    | 13 out of 150 (8.66%)  |

**Table 1 (Frequency of visit to the Library)**

The above Table No.1 shows that around 36.67% of the UG Students visit in the library daily, 20.67% once in a week, round 34% Twice in a week and 8.66% visit occasionally. The quantum of the UG Department who visit the library once or twice in a week is high. The analysis expressed that many of the PG Students regular user of the library.

### 5.2 Time spent in Library in a week

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1-5 hours          | 35 out of 150 (23.33%) |
| 5-10 hours         | 57 out of 150 (38%)    |
| 10-15 hours        | 36 out of 150 (24%)    |
| More than 15 hours | 22 out of 150 (14.66%) |

**Table 2 (Time spent in Library in a week)**

Table and Figure number 2 states that 28 % of PG Student read for 1-5 hrs in a week, around 58 % for 5-10 hours, 21 % for 10- 15 hours and around 6 % read more than 15 hours in a week. This figure highlights how much time is devoted by P. G. Students in library.

### 5.3 Preference to Use of Various Reading Materials

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Subject/Text Book | 26% |
| Story/Novel/Poem  | 12% |
| Motivation        | 5%  |
| Biography         | 7%  |
| Magazine          | 19% |
| Newspapers        | 24% |
| Others            | 7%  |

**Table 3 (Preference to Use of Various Reading Materials)**

Table no.3 shows that 26% prefer to read subject/text book in library, followed by 24% students prefer to read newspapers; 19% prefer to read magazines; 12% prefer to read novel/story/poetry books; 7% prefer to read biographies; 5% prefer to read motivational books and 7% prefer to use other library materials.

### 5.4 Use of Internet for Study Purpose

| Frequency              | Percent |
|------------------------|---------|
| 3 - 5 hours in a week  | 37%     |
| 5 - 10 hours in a week | 34%     |
| More than 10 hours     | 14%     |
| Less than 3 Hours      | 15%     |

**Table 4 (Use of Internet for Study Purpose)**

It has been found (Tab. No. 4), 37% Students use the internet 3-5 hours in a week, 34% P. G. Students use the internet 5-10 hours in a week, 14 % Students use the internet more than 10 hours in a week and 15% Students use the internet less than 3 hours in a week.

### 5.5 Use of Internet for academic purpose

| Uses                      | Percent |
|---------------------------|---------|
| E-Books/ PDF              | 24%     |
| YouTube/Educational Video | 45%     |
| e-Employment News         | 9%      |
| e-Newspapers              | 18%     |
| Other                     | 4%      |

**Table 5 ( Use of Internet for academic purpose)**

Table no. 5 indicates that while ranking the use of internet resources used by the Students in-general, YouTube/Video come to the top rank with 45% while E-Books/ PDF occupy second position with 24 % and e-Newspapers occupy third position with 18%.

### 5.6 Influence of Internet on Reading Habits

| Types  | Yes  | No   |
|--|------|------|
| Dependency on electronic materials has increase  | 71 % | 29%  |
| Importance of documentary material has decreased | 4 %  | 96 % |
| Both are Important sources                       | 93 % | 7%   |

**Table 6 (Influence of Internet on Reading Habits)**

It is clear from Table No. 6, that dependency on digital sources has increased) 71(%, though some 96% believed that the importance of documentary sources is still intact. The same 93% believed that the documentary and digital sources, both are important for study purpose.

## 6. Conclusion:

It is clear from this study that in the present scenario, the utility of digital and online materials has increased, but the students' confidence in traditional/documentary materials also remains. Reading habits are very essential and very important discipline to improve the knowledge and current awareness of the students, hence the library professionals should act earnestly to encourage the users to read traditional books for developing reading habits.

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