Abstracts of M.Phil. Theses

Rafique, G. M. (2014). *Knowledge Sharing Behavior of Medical Students: A Study of the University College of Medicine, the University of Lahore.* (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

Knowledge sharing (KS) is an important activity that has become a commonly discussed aspect of knowledge management. It plays an important role in the learning and development of students. It is increasing day-by-day due to many developments including the immense proliferation of information and communication technologies. Medical students share a lot of information and knowledge with their peers during their studies. There was a need to know about various details of this process and its impact on learning. An exploration of available literature showed that no study had so far been conducted to determine the KS behavior of medical students. Therefore, it was decided to investigate the KS behavior of this important specialized group to fill this gap.

This study explored the KS behavior of undergraduate medical students by covering areas such as: the types of knowledge they shared, their purposes, motivational factors, preferred communication channels and the barriers of KS. The survey method was used to answer the research questions of this study. The survey instrument for this study was adapted from already conducted two studies. These questionnaires were examined carefully to make a single one by removing duplicate statements and to make it easy, unambiguous, and short for the students to complete. During this process, some words were changed to meet the need of medical students and local scenario. It was reviewed by a panel of experts to check item relevancy making sure that the items in the questionnaire were relevant to the domain of content. After expert review, a pilot study was carried out on 25 undergraduate medical students (five students from each class), who were not part of the sample, in order to ensure the validity of the data collection instrument. A five point Likert type scale was used. The questionnaire, containing 72 items, was distributed among 260 out of 650 students selected by proportionate stratified random sampling technique from University College of Medicine of The University of Lahore. A total of 252 (96.9%) questionnaires were received from respondents. Relevant descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the collected data using SPSS-19.

Some major findings showed that the undergraduate medical students mostly shared 'OSPE (Objectively Structured Practical Examinations) & viva voce related material' and 'Books / Book chapters' with each other where females preferred 'Books / Book chapters' to share. Their purposes and motives behind KS were 'To discuss exams related matters' and 'To further one's own understanding of concepts learnt in the class through ideas with other students'. The results also found that class participation and group discussion stimulated them to share knowledge with their peers. They mostly preferred and considered 'Face-to-face' as an effective communication channel for KS due to convenience or accessibility. These students believed on 'give and take' which means that they shared their knowledge more with those who shared with them and they considered it a barrier in sharing knowledge among students. The overall opinions of female students scored higher than males.

The findings of this research would help to overcome the issues of students regarding KS. It would assist institutional management to understand the KS practices of the students so that a collaborative and cohesive learning environment could be established among students by providing ample interaction opportunities. It would support the students to achieve better performance and improve learning through balanced KS.

Iqbal, M. (2014). *Factors Affecting the Students' Selection and Use of Web Sites.* (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

Students all around the world search, select and use World Wide Web (WWW) to meet their information needs. The purpose of this study was to explore the factors affecting the decisions about selection and use of information extracted from various websites. This study is based upon a quantitative research design by using the survey method. The population of the study was the graduate students of the University of the Punjab during the year 2013-2014. Convenient sampling technique was used to choose the sample for the study. A structured questionnaire was developed as the data collection instrument.

Four constructs were examined to explore the effects on the selection and use of websites i.e. *system quality (SQ)*, *information quality (IQ)*, *perceived ease of use (EOU)*, and *perceived usefulness (U).* These factors were selected from the Technology Acceptance

Model (TAM), Unified Theory of Acceptance, Use of Technology (UTAUT) Model, and Information System Success Model (ISSM).

Prior research focused on the design; including the graphics, navigation, structure, and flow of the web site. This study focuses on the human factors that relate to the use of the web by the University students looking for information to meet their needs.

The findings of the study reflect that all the described web factors under the constructs of IQ, SQ, U and EOU are preferably important to select a website for use by PU students. The effect of all these factors is independent of gender, while highly affected by students' age groups and study programs. Results revealed no difference of opinion among the respondents from all study programs except IBIT. Respondents from IBIT are more concerned about SQ and U as compared to IQ and EOU. This study may be helpful to develop appropriate web sites and web based information resources for the students and academia at large.

Hussain, N. (2014). *Training Needs Assessment of Postgraduate Researchers.* (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

Research culture is growing in Pakistan; however, training opportunities for education and conducting research are limited. Researchers' competencies are directly related to the quality and effectiveness of the research produced. The major objectives of this study were (a) to assess research related training needs of postgraduate researchers (PGRs) and (b) to produce a research skill development framework; additionally (c) to explore the factors that motivate them to join such trainings (d) to identify the preferred training methods and (e) to determine the barriers researchers experienced during the study and research process. Quantitative approach based on the survey method was used for this study. A semi-structured questionnaire was developed on the basis of literature review and expert opinions. Non-random, convenience sampling technique was employed for the selection of sample. The PGRs, available at research oriented departments and libraries of the University of the Punjab (PU) and Government College University Lahore (GCU), were contacted for the data collection. The findings revealed that majority of the respondents wanted to develop their skills in various areas of research process including selection of a good topic, research design and methodology, mixed method approach and data

analysis tools. 'Face-to-face' was the preferred training method. The respondents perceived the 'selection of the right method and tool for research' and 'enhancement of research skills' as the strong motivational factors to attend training workshops. The research culture can be developed and quality of research produced can be improved through designing training and capacity building programs on basis of results of this study. This study provides a framework likely to be beneficial for universities, organizations and other institutions for organizing effective research training and development programs.

Anwar, U. (2014). *College Librarians as Information Literacy Instructors: Training Gap Analysis.* (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

The present study aimed to identify the gap between expected and perceived levels of "Information Literacy Instructions" (ILI) skills of college librarians using the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) "*Standards for Proficiency for Instruction Librarians and Coordinators*." A questionnaire, based on the indicator statements provided with these standards, was used for the survey of college librarians working in the Punjab Province. Twenty-seven statements were selected according to the local needs and existing culture of Pakistani college libraries to get the participants' self-perceptions.

The questionnaire was sent to 178 librarians and the response rate was 53%. The IBM SPSS 21 version was used for quantitative analysis. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied to determine the gap in ILI skills and training needs. The results revealed that the respondents were not well aware of Information Literacy and had a low level of ILI skills. No differences of ILI skills levels were found on the basis of demographic variables. The results of the gap analysis showed the significant gap in all proficiencies of the college librarians and identified training needs in this regard. The respondents' self-perceived needs of training were also identified.

The findings of the study will help library schools, professional associations, librarians and the policy makers to better understand the situation, and to put efforts to fill the identified gap in ILI skills of college librarians through continuing professional development (CPD). It will also help in designing the training programs to accomplish the identified training needs.

Ahmad, Z. (2014). *Assessing Information Literacy Skills of Researchers.* **(M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.**

The study used ACRL standards of information literacy to investigate the state of information literacy skills of researchers related to their ability of: (a) determine the nature and extent of information needed; (b) assess needed information effectively and efficiently; (c) analyze information evaluation skills; (d) evaluate the information use in an effective and efficient manner and (e) using information ethically and legally. The study followed quantitative research design and the survey method was used to conduct the study using questionnaire as data collecting tool. The population of the study consisted of the currently enrolled M.Phil. and Ph.D. students of the University of the Punjab, Lahore. Convenience sampling technique was used to reach the required sample size from the population. The findings show that the researchers have satisfactory information literacy skills. The researchers were found abiding the information usage ethics, avoiding plagiarism, understanding legal and socio-economic issues of information and information technology. The respondents had the ability to seek, evaluate and communicate information. The researchers were found able to examine and evaluate the reliability, validity, accuracy and authority of information. The researchers were found familiar with IL skills and able to identify potential sources, meet their emerging needs and articulate the information.

Bajwa, M. S. (2014). *Evaluation of Skills and Training Needs of Library Paraprofessional Staff Working in University of the Punjab, Lahore.* **(M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.**

Development of human resources at all levels is the primary concern in today's knowledge-based services economy, including library and information services. Skilled and trained library staff can deliver satisfactory and effective library services. In a library, paraprofessionals frequently interact with users as front-liners and their skills are part of service delivery. The study is based on the objectives:(a) to evaluate the status of present skills of library paraprofessionals (b) to identify required skills for them, (c) to explore their training needs, and (d) to determine barriers faced by paraprofessionals in acquiring the training opportunities. A sequential mixed method research design was used to meet the objectives. In the first stage, relevant literature was searched and used to identify the required skills. Then 10 face-to-face interviews of library professionals were conducted to determine the set of skills essential and needed for paraprofessionals. Based on these themes from the interviews, a semi-structured questionnaire was developed to collect the data. The paraprofessionals working in libraries of University of the Punjab were selected through simple random sampling. The major findings revealed that the paraprofessional staff was better in interpersonal communication skills with other library staff rather than users. It was also found that they were able to search information from the printed resources while they lacked online databases searching skills. The findings also showed that know-how about networking, digitization, scanning and assigning call numbers to duplicate material were the most required skills by the respondents. Majority of the respondents had no formal training but by their librarians. They required hands-on computer training. It is suggested that training sessions should be arranged in summer vacations at the Punjab University Library. The qualitative data have revealed that library heads are opinioned that communication and ICT skills are the most imperative for these individuals.

Rafiq, S. (2014). *Medical Students' Perceptions Towards the Use of Electronic Books.* **(M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.**

Electronic books (e-books) are becoming an essential part of a medical library's resources to fulfill the current information needs of patrons. The purpose of this study was to explore the perception of medical undergraduate students towards the use of e-books in medical colleges of Lahore. It also analyzed their preference for print vs. electronic books. To accomplish the study, a quantitative approach based on survey method was opted. A questionnaire was used as data collection instrument. The target population was 5th year medical undergraduate students of three public sector medical colleges located in Lahore. A structured questionnaire was prepared on the basis of published literature which was reviewed by experts.

The questionnaires were distributed to the medical colleges with the response rate of 79% (N=235). Relevant statistical techniques were used on the data through SPSS. Frequencies distribution, mean and standard derivation were used to explore the perception of medical students. The findings revealed that the use and non-use of e-books are almost same among medical students. The students came to know

about e-books through internet and friends and they
e-books are: easy accesses, accessibility round the
clock, facility to search and browse dictionary, save
time, user friendly etc. Students who are using e-
books also still preferred to use printed books.

These medical students while use the e-books faced
different issues such as: "requirement of e-book
.

used them for academic purpose. Their reasons to use
username and password", "eye sore", "different e-
books from different sources are not compatible" and
"difficulty in downloading a relevant section or
chapter". This study suggests that medical librarians
need to adopt the promotional strategies to enhance
their information services and resources.