

## Abstract of Ph.D. Thesis

**Ullah, M. (2015). *The Status of Information Literacy Instruction in Medical Libraries of Pakistan: An Appraisal. (Ph.D.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.***

The purpose of this study was to appraise the status of information literacy (IL) instruction in medical libraries of Pakistan. The focus was on probing the perceptions of medical librarians towards the importance of IL skills, current practices of IL instruction, the barriers while advocating or providing IL instruction, and IL instruction training needs of medical librarians. Suggestions from the head librarians regarding the strategies to be adopted for the effective implementation of IL instruction programmes in medical libraries of Pakistan were also obtained. Moreover, differences between libraries at public and private sector medical institutions were also explored.

This study adopted sequential mixed methods research design based on quantitative data collection followed by qualitative data collection. In the first phase, a semi-structured questionnaire was mailed to the head librarians of all 114 academic medical libraries in Pakistan. Response rate was 60.5%. During the second phase of the study, qualitative data were gathered through semi-structured in-depth interviews. Twenty head librarians were purposively selected to obtain their detailed perspective related to the significant results of quantitative phase. The results were consolidated at the interpretation stage.

The results have demonstrated that the respondents from both public and private sector medical institutions considered all the eight IL skills important for their library users. The study revealed that 74% of the respondents had offered some types of IL instruction in their institutions during the previous year, ranging from library orientation to research-level skills. IL instruction is typically only offered to new students or first-time library users or on demand. A majority of the respondents developed IL instruction programmes without faculty involvement. Librarians were primarily responsible for offering IL instruction in medical institutions. Face-to-face instruction in computer labs or lecture halls and individual v instruction at reference desks were identified as the most common IL instruction delivery methods. The data indicated that oral feedback, written feedback and searching in a computer lab were the most popular assessment methods that medical librarians used. All the interviewees stated that library

orientation and instruction in basic information skills were not enough for medical library users. They suggested that medical library users must be trained in advanced information skills.

It was identified that "lack of training opportunities for IL instruction for librarians" and "lack of policy regarding IL instruction in the medical institutions" were the most significant barriers to IL instruction programmes in both public and private sector medical institutions. The respondents were very much interested in the development of their IL instruction proficiencies in the eight areas (developing IL course contents, IL instruction need assessment, IL teaching methods, promoting IL instruction programmes, presentation skills, integrating IL instruction into the curriculum, IL instructional design skills and developing online IL tutorials) mentioned in the questionnaire. However, they were less interested in the development of their evaluation and assessment skills due to voluntarily attendance in the IL instruction sessions being not integrated into the curriculum.

The respondents revealed that library users were not well versed with information skills due to traditional education system of reading text books and class notes only. The respondents identified workshops/seminars and formal in-class teaching as part of the main curriculum as the most effective IL instruction delivery methods. Majority of the respondents were in favour of integrating IL instruction into the curriculum as an independent and credit course. An overwhelming majority of the respondents was of the opinion that librarians and faculty should collaborate in designing IL instruction.

## Abstracts of M.Phil. Theses

**Jabbar, A. (2015). *Role of School Teacher in Promoting Reading Habit Among School Children: A Study Of Private School Systems Of Lahore. (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.***

Developing readers who not only can read but developing readers who want to read should be the focus of school teachers who have extensive opportunities to inculcate reading habit among children. This study aimed to investigate the role of school teachers in promoting reading habit among primary school children. In-depth interviews were conducted to collect data from 30 primary school

teachers including male and female who were teaching in two private school systems of Lahore.

The primary school teachers were playing their effective role by employing new and innovative strategies like read-aloud or story-telling, sustained silent reading, reading circles and they had employed best practices like recommending books and authors, encouraging library use, providing reading choice and time in class and presenting themselves as reading role models before school children to promote their reading habit. However, they were not found as enthusiastic readers as well as lacking in knowledge of children's literature. Many of the school teachers mentioned that they did not recommend or assign any work related to library use. The school teachers considered the role of parents in the promotion of reading habit among their children could be very effective. However, they felt that the parents were not playing their role effectively. Further, the evolving technologies and electronic devices were negatively impacting reading habit among school children.

The findings of this study will be helpful for educationists, education policy makers, school teachers, librarians and parents of the children to effectively inculcate reading habit among school children. Some recommendations to this effect have been made.

**Hussain, T. (2015). *Information Seeking Behaviour of Pakistani Painters. (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.***

The area of information needs and information-seeking behaviour (ISB) has been the focus of researchers since the 1940s. Later on several models were developed in this area. Current literature shows that this model has not been applied on painters. This research has encompassed an analysis of painters' practices related to selecting the topic, their sources of inspiration, the type of information they need, their preferences for sources of information, the strategies they adopted to seek information and the difficulties they faced during the course of seeking information. Also this study investigated the ISB of Pakistani professional painters to see if this behaviour matches the Ellis model. In-depth interview and personal narration were the primary tools for data collection. The interview schedule, expert reviewed and pilot-tested was used. Ten professional painters were interviewed about their ISB focusing on their actual work. The interviews were recorded and transcribed. The resulting text was analyzed using qualitative analysis tools. Problems faced by these painters during the information-seeking process were

identified. Results of the study showed that painters were strict in their thinking and rendering painting. They believed that they were the only ones who had a right to judge their work, whether what they were creating would be completed or even displayed. It was difficult for the information professionals to ask a specific query to find the right answer. Painters were ambiguous about what they exactly wanted until they found out what that was. Therefore, librarians needed to understand them and develop mutual trust to serve them better. Based on the results, some suggestions were made to improve services to painters.

**Usman, M. (2015). *Use of University Libraries' Social Networking Sites among Students of Lahore. (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.***

The use of social networking sites (SNSs) has become a common practice in these days. These online social networks began to appear in late 1990s, and gained widespread popularity and media coverage in beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Within a decade millions of people have joined these sites. Libraries have also felt the importance of SNSs and created their own pages to provide services, develop interaction with users and for promotion. The university students also use these sites a lot to remain in touch with latest updates. A wide exploration of available literature at the time of this study showed that no study had so far been conducted on this topic in Pakistan. Therefore, it was very important to investigate this important specialized group to know about their use and perception about these library's websites, and this study was planned to fill this gap.

This study explored the behaviour of undergraduate computer science about library's SNSs by covering areas such as: the use of library' SNSs, their perception and the barriers to use these sites. The survey method was used to answer the research questions of this study. The survey instrument for this study was developed after in depth literature review. The developed questionnaires were revised to make it single one, easy and unambiguous for the students to complete. The resulting questionnaire was examined carefully to remove duplicate statements and reduced their members if possible. It was reviewed by a panel of experts to check items 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 28 undergraduate computer science students (seven students from each university), 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 to validate the statements. The Questionnaire, containing 29 items, was distributed among 151 out of 259 students selected by proportional stratified random sampling technique from four Universities and received 145 (96%) questionnaires from respondents. Relevant descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the collected data using SPSS 22.

The research results showed that undergraduate computer science students use library's SNSs for academic and personal purposes. They use personal computer, laptops and Smartphone to access library's SNSs. They have perception that library's SNSs increase interaction among students and library. It affects their academic performance positively and it is an easy way of communication with library. The results indicated that the students use SNSs of academic library's for information about library working hours, new arrivals, facilities, library policies, procedures and it also help them to interact with reference librarian. The students believe that slow speed of internet connection is a barrier for them and SNSs is not alternate of face to face communication. The results revealed that the overall opinions of female students scored higher than males.

The insightful findings of this research will help to overcome the issues of students regarding SNSs of libraries. It will assist the management of university libraries and other higher education institutions to develop such an interactive learning SNSs that encourages using them. It will support the students to understand the SNSs of libraries and make use of them.

**Aslam, M. (2015). *Knowledge Sharing Practices in Learning: A Study of Researchers in Social Sciences at University of the Punjab, Lahore.* (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.**

The present study investigated the current state of knowledge sharing (KS) practices among social sciences research students with the objectives of: attitude towards knowledge sharing, frequency and type of knowledge shared, preferred communication channels, the factors likely to motivate and the hindrances they face while sharing knowledge. To meet the objectives, the study followed quantitative research design and the survey method is used to conduct the study. A questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. It was adopted and modified with the permission of author. The data were administrated personally by the researcher through distributed

questionnaire to the social science researchers. The population of the study was the currently enrolled MPhil researchers at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore. Participants were selected by using stratified random sampling technique. The response rate of study was 72%. The findings revealed that the researchers are aware about the importance of KS and have positive attitude towards KS. Findings also showed that lack of initiatives to voluntarily share information, lack of appreciation for KS and lack of knowledge sharing culture were certain barriers created hurdles in sharing. The findings of the study would be helpful for the university management to understand the knowledge sharing practices of the social sciences researchers and in creating collaborative learning environment. Furthermore, it will helpful to identify the areas where knowledge sharing practices needs to concentrate and develop.

**Saleem, Q. (2015). *Personal Information and Knowledge Management Practices of the Researchers in Sciences at University of the Punjab.* (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.**

This study aimed to investigate Personal Information and Knowledge Management (PIKM) practices of the researchers from Life Sciences. Personal information and knowledge management is a combination of personal information management, personal knowledge management and information literacy. The objectives of the study were to: assess the PIKM practices and identification of the differences among researcher's practices. Survey method based on questionnaire was used to conduct the study. Mphil and PhD research students enrolled in 2014 from the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of the Punjab were considered as sample for the study. The questionnaire, based on thirty statements covering five areas was distributed among MPhil and PhD researchers from four departments from the faculty of Life Sciences. The study is based on the response of 58% (114 numbers of respondents) from a total number of 197 researchers. The results showed that researchers validated all the practices (mentioned in questionnaire) of five sections. The only statement which was not validated by them was keeping information only in electronic form. No significant difference was found in the practices based on demographical variables. The set of practices validated in study will help educators to design training programs for students and researchers in Pakistan. It is hoped that this study has made a solid

contribution to existing literature on competencies for researchers, especially in the area of information management. The study will add to the literature and the findings of this study will be helpful to understand PIKM practices of the researchers.

**Butt, N. (2015). *An Appraisal of the Punjab E-Government Websites*. (M.Phil.), University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.**

E-government is a global phenomenon that influencing both developed and developing countries. This phenomenon includes the provision of government information and services by using internet and information communication technologies. Several governments across the world have been adopting digital technologies to accelerate government processes. E-government developments are advantageous as it minimizes the citizen's effort and saving time by facilitating them with online services (e-services). For proper functioning of E-government, web portals have developed to make accessible several departments' websites at a single point. However, the success of these web portals largely depends on quality and level of development of the websites.

This study is a baseline exploratory study of the Punjab E-government websites to examine their services and existing level of website development. For accessing the level of website development,

researcher used 'four-stage models': publishing, interacting, transacting and transforming. The study also focused on the different designing attributes of the websites. For analyzing attributes, the study used an automatic web-testing tool to check the quality of websites against international guidelines and standards developed by World Wide Web consortium (W3C).

In Pakistan E-government initiatives have taken in 2002. The present study focused on Punjab E-government websites' survey. Through purposive sampling, all (N=38) websites of Punjab provincial departments have studied thoroughly. The study concluded that E-government websites of the Punjab web portal are at the first and second stage of development with respect to services they provided according to four stages model of development of e-government websites. However, significant work still needed to be undertaken to develop at the level of third (transacting) and fourth (transforming) stage. Similarly, different errors have found for websites designing attributes. Accessibility, compatibility, privacy, standards and usability attributes were analyzed for E -government website designing. The Punjab E-government websites have different level of issue with compliance to standards and guidelines including web content accessibility guidelines, search engine guidelines and HTML standards.