

Information Literacy in Ayurveda Education: The Role of College Libraries in Kolhapur.

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Abstract:

This study focuses on the growth of Ayurveda and the growing role of college libraries in enhancing information literacy among students in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. As more Ayurveda institutions are being established, the demand for educational resources is increasing. Using 04 colleges affiliated to Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik. The research examines how Ayurvedic college libraries help students develop information literacy skills. A mixed methods approach was used to collect data through surveys and interviews, in which 64 questionnaires were distributed and 52 were responded. The findings revealed that college libraries are important in promoting information literacy, students frequently visit for books and study materials, statistical analysis was done using the proportion test formula in MS Excel. It also assesses the support of digital resources and librarians. This study highlights the importance of college libraries in academic activities and suggests areas for improvement in digital engagement.

Keywords: Information Literacy, Ayurveda, Education, Academic Library,

Introduction:

In the current times, there is a growing recognition of information literacy as a basic skill necessary for academic and professional success. Information literacy is the skill to know what information is needed, how to find it, how to assess its relevance, and how to use it effectively in a variety of contexts. In the field of Ayurveda education, this skill becomes particularly important, as students and practitioners have to navigate a vast and often complex field of knowledge to ensure accurate understanding and application of Ayurvedic principles.¹⁰

The field of Ayurveda, an ancient system of medicine with deep historical roots, has seen significant growth in recent years, especially in India. With the proliferation of Ayurveda institutions in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra, the demand for educational resources that support effective learning is increasing. In this digital age, the role of college libraries is becoming increasingly important in enhancing information literacy, providing access to scholarly literature, and developing students' research capabilities.

Through this research, we aim to highlight the importance of libraries in providing Ayurveda students with the skills they need for academic and professional success. Furthermore, we are examining how these institutions contribute to preserving and promoting the knowledge base of this ancient healing system in the context of modern education.⁶

Literature Review:

This section review existing studies on the role of college libraries on student's acquisition of information literacy skills. **Yevelson-Shorsher, A., & Bronstein, J. (2018)** This study examines information literacy skills in academia from the perspectives of students, faculty, and librarians. It

shows that students feel unprepared, faculty expect them to learn these skills, and librarians recognize the problem but struggle to meet students' needs. More collaboration is needed to enhance information literacy training.¹ **Akpovire, Eunice (2019)** This paper looks at how information literacy skills affect the use of information resources by medical students in Lagos state. It examines the types of available resources, their accessibility, and the correlation between literacy skills and resource usage. The study used a survey design with a self-structured questionnaire for data collection and analyzed the results with statistics. It found that print newspapers, textbooks, and e-resources were mainly available. The study concludes that medical students need to develop important skills for effective information searching.² **Carvalho E Rodrigues, M., Mandrekar, B., (2020).** Libraries are important for students' academic success. This study looks at student satisfaction with library resources and services. It found a strong link between library use and academic performance. Promoting awareness of library resources can help students benefit more. Encouraging library use in studies is essential.³ **Abubakar, (2020).** The aim of this study was to examine the availability and accessibility of information resources for pharmacy students in the University of Jos. It involved 549 students, of whom 55 were sampled for data collection through questionnaires. The findings revealed that most of the resources were available and useful, but some were not easily accessible. Recommendations included maintaining the current resources and acquiring more to enhance accessibility for students.⁴ **Tachie-Donkor, G., & Ezema, I. J. (2023).** This study looked at how information literacy skills affect students' information seeking and lifelong learning at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. It sampled 278 students and used various methods to measure their skills. Results showed students had strong information literacy skills, adopted positive behaviors, and were confident users of information. The study suggests academic libraries should provide diverse information sources and offer programs to improve students' information literacy.⁵

Aim:

The aim was to examine the role of college libraries in promoting information literacy and, therefore, the effectiveness of libraries among students.

Objective:

To inquire into the role of Ayurvedic college libraries in acquisition information literacy skills among students.

Hypothesis:

It is assumed that college libraries significantly increase students' information literacy skills through targeted programs and resources.

Scope and Limitation:

The scope of this study, "To enquire the Roles of Ayurveda College Libraries in the Acquisition of Information Literacy Skills by Students." sheds light on this important aspect of Ayurveda colleges in Kolhapur district. Focusing on 1) Dr. J. J. Magdum Ayurved Medical College, Jaysingpur 2) Ayurvedic Medical College, Peth Vadgaon 3) Dr. Deepak Patil Ayurvedic Medical College and Research center, Borpadale 4) Pradip Patil Ayurvedic Medical College, Khutalwadi this 04 selected Ayurveda colleges affiliated to Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (M.U.H.S.), this research attempts to understand the current status of information literacy among students and how college libraries contribute to its development. The findings of this study will not only be beneficial to the local Ayurveda education community but will also provide valuable insights for improving information literacy practices in similar institutions in India and beyond.⁸

Methodology:

This was a mixed-method study, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to collect comprehensive data. A total of 64 questionnaires were distributed among selected college students, and 52 of them responded.

i. Library Visit Frequency**Table-1:** Library Visit Frequency Distribution

Library Visit	No. of library visit
Daily	37
Weekly	13
Monthly	1
A few times a year	1
Grand Total	52

The data reveals that 71% of students visit the library daily, indicating its crucial role in academic activities. 25% visit weekly, suggesting periodic use for assignments or reference materials. Only 4% visit monthly or a few times a year, showing minimal engagement. The Table-1 highlights the dominance of daily visitors, emphasizing the library's significance in students' learning habits.

ii. Time Spent in the Library per Week**Table-2:** Weekly Time Spend in Library by Students

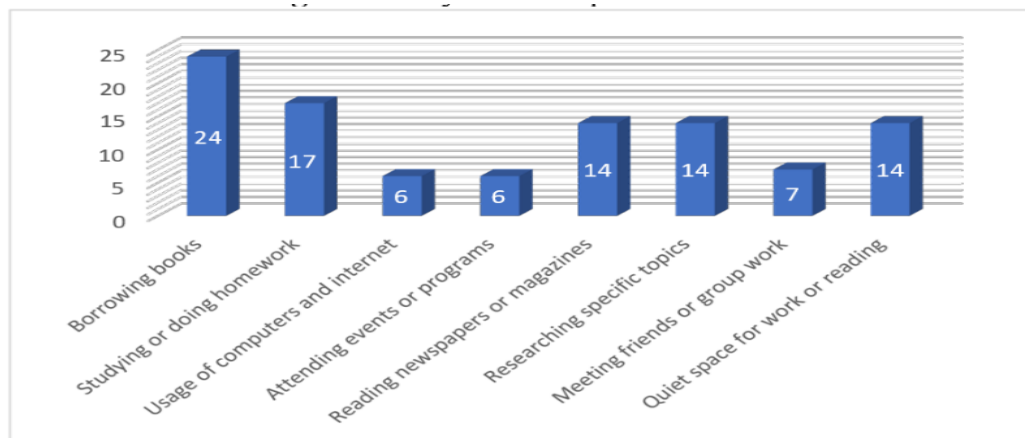
Time Spend	No. of hours per week spend at the library
Less than 1 hour	12
1-3 hours	26
4-7 hours	11
8-14 hours	1
0 Hours	2
Grand Total	52

The data indicates that 50% of students spend 1-3 hours per week in the library, showing moderate engagement with library resources. 23% spend less than an hour, suggesting minimal usage, possibly for quick reference or book borrowing. 21% dedicate 4 or more hours weekly, reflecting deeper academic involvement. Meanwhile, 4% do not use the library at all, highlighting a potential need for awareness or digital alternatives. The Table-2 emphasizes the majority's moderate usage while also indicating varied engagement levels among students.

iii. Purposes of Visiting the Library**Table-3:** Library Visit Purposes Distribution

Purposes of Visiting	No. of Students
Borrowing books	24
Studying or doing homework	17
Usage of computers and internet	6
Attending events or programs	6
Reading newspapers or magazines	14
Researching specific topics	14

Meeting friends or group work	7
Quiet space for work or reading	14

Fig-3: Library Visit Purposes

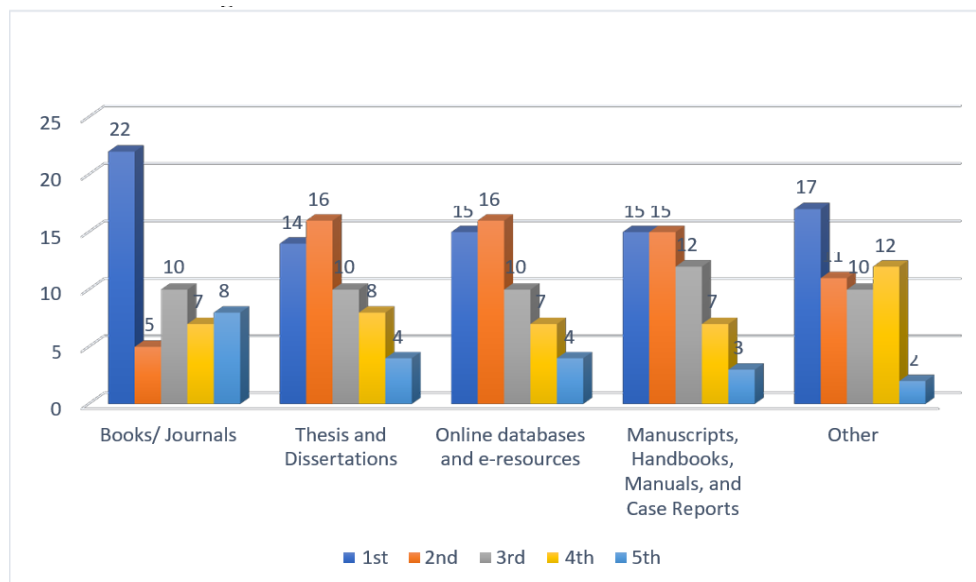
The data, along with the bar graph, highlights that borrowing books (46%) is the primary reason students visit the library, indicating a strong reliance on physical resources. Studying or doing homework (33%) is another major purpose, reflecting the library's role in academic support. 27% of students visit for reading newspapers, magazines, or researching specific topics, showing interest in gaining knowledge beyond textbooks. Other reasons include using computers and the internet (13%), attending events or programs (13%), and group work or reading (14%), showcasing diverse engagement. The bar plot visually emphasizes borrowing books as the leading activity while illustrating a balanced distribution of other purposes. The graph clearly depicts these trends, making it easier to understand the frequency of each activity in the library.

iv. Most Important Sources of Information

Table-4: Ranking of Information Sources by Students

Preference Rank	Books/ Journals / Newspapers	Online databases and e- resources	Community programs and events	Librarians and library staff	Other
1 st	22	16	17	20	20
2 nd	9	12	13	11	10
3 rd	8	11	16	13	14
4 th	5	11	5	1	5
5 th	8	2	1	7	3
Total	52	52	52	52	52

Fig-4: Information Sources Preference



The data and bar plot indicate that Books, Journals, and Newspapers (22 votes) are the most preferred information source, followed closely by Librarians, Library Staff, and Other Sources (20 votes each). Online databases (16 votes) and Community Programs (17 votes) are also widely used, reflecting diverse information-seeking habits. The rankings show a balanced mix of traditional and digital sources, emphasizing the need for a well-rounded library system. The bar plot clearly illustrates these preferences, highlighting books as the dominant but not sole resource.

v. Academic and Research Resources Used by Students

Table-5: Academic and Research Resource Preferences

Preference Rank	Books/ Journals	Thesis and Dissertations	Online databases and e-	Manuscripts, Handbooks, Manuals, and Case Reports	Other
1 st	22	14	15	15	17
2 nd	5	16	16	15	11
3 rd	10	10	10	12	10
4 th	7	8	7	7	12
5 th	8	4	4	3	2
Total	52	52	52	52	52

The table-5 indicates that Books and Journals (22 votes) are the most preferred resource for academic and research work, followed by Other Sources (17 votes), Online Databases (15 votes), and Manuscripts/Handbooks (15 votes). Theses and Dissertations (14 votes) also hold significance, showing a varied approach to research.

For 2nd and 3rd preferences, Theses, Online Databases, and Manuscripts receive nearly equal importance, indicating their supplementary role. Lower-ranked choices suggest that while traditional books remain dominant, students rely on multiple resources for research. The bar plot visually highlights these trends, reinforcing the need for a diverse collection of academic materials.

vi. Who Helps Students Search for Information in the Library

Table-6: Information Search Assistance Sources

Source	Frequency
Librarians	30
Teachers	23
Library assistants	16
Senior students	9
Online resources or tutorials	3
I search on my own	19

The data shows that Librarians (30 responses) are the primary source of help in the library, followed by Teachers (23 responses) and Library assistants (16 responses). 19 students search on their own, and only 3 rely on online resources or tutorials. This highlights the important role of library staff and teachers in assisting students with information retrieval.

Conclusion:

The results show that college libraries significantly contribute to the infusion of information literacy skills in students. Most students frequently visit the library, mainly for book borrowing, studying, and other academic-related work. While traditional resources like books and journals remain dominant, digital resources and library staff support are also highly valued. Students largely rely on librarians and teachers for assistance, reflecting the library's central role in academic and research activities. Overall, the library is crucial in developing students' information literacy, though there is room for enhancing engagement with digital resources and alternative support services. Statistical Analysis The proportion test formula was used to conduct statistical analysis and test hypotheses using MS Excel software to identify significant trends and relationships in the collected data.

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