



# ASSESSING THE USE AND IMPACT OF INFORMATION LITERACY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS: A CASE STUDY OF ANJABIT SINGH COLLEGE, BIKRAMGANJ, ROHTAS, BIHAR

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**Abstract:** Information literacy has become one of the most important competencies for students in the digital age, where information is available in abundance through both print and electronic sources. The ability to identify information needs, locate relevant resources, evaluate their credibility, and use information ethically is essential for academic success and lifelong learning. This study investigates the level of information literacy among students of Anjabit Singh College, Bikramganj, Rohtas, Bihar, and examines its impact on their academic activities. A descriptive survey research design was adopted, and data were collected using a structured questionnaire administered to students of the college. Secondary data were gathered from books, research articles, government reports, and other scholarly publications related to information literacy. The findings indicate that although most students frequently use digital devices and internet resources for academic purposes, many lack the skills required to critically evaluate online information and effectively utilize academic databases. The study also reveals that students with stronger information literacy skills demonstrate better academic performance, greater confidence in research activities, and improved learning outcomes. Limited formal training, inadequate awareness of scholarly information resources, and insufficient user education programmes were identified as major barriers. The study recommends integrating information literacy into the curriculum, strengthening library orientation programmes, and enhancing collaboration between librarians and faculty members to improve students' information competencies.

**Keywords:** Information Literacy, Academic Library, Information Seeking Behaviour, Digital Literacy, Higher Education, Library Services, Academic Performance, User Education.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the twenty-first century, the rapid growth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has transformed the way information is created, accessed, and disseminated. The abundance of digital information has made it essential for individuals to possess the skills required to identify their information needs, locate relevant resources, critically evaluate information, and use it ethically and effectively. These competencies, collectively known as information literacy, have become fundamental to academic success, research productivity, and lifelong learning in higher education institutions.

Academic libraries play a crucial role in promoting information literacy by providing access to diverse print and electronic resources, digital databases, internet facilities, and user education programmes. However, the availability of information resources alone does not ensure their effective utilization. Students must be equipped with appropriate information literacy skills to navigate the rapidly expanding digital information environment, distinguish credible sources from unreliable ones, and apply information responsibly in academic and research activities. These skills have become increasingly important in the context of technology-enabled education and the growing emphasis on independent learning.

Anjabit Singh College, Bikramganj, located in Rohtas district of Bihar, is a constituent college of Veer Kunwar Singh University that serves students from rural and semi-urban backgrounds. Although the college provides access to library resources and basic digital facilities, there is a need to evaluate how effectively students utilize these resources and whether they possess adequate information literacy competencies. Understanding students' information-seeking behaviour and the challenges they encounter is essential for improving library services and supporting academic achievement.

Against this background, the present study examines the use and impact of information literacy among students of Anjabit Singh College. It assesses their level of information literacy, explores patterns of library and information resource utilization, identifies the challenges affecting effective information use, and evaluates the relationship between information literacy and academic performance. The findings are expected to provide useful insights for librarians, educators, and institutional administrators in designing effective information literacy programmes and strengthening academic library services to enhance students' learning and research capabilities.

## 2. Review of Literature

Information literacy has received considerable attention in Library and Information Science because of its significant role in enhancing academic learning, research competence, and lifelong learning. Earlier studies have consistently emphasized that information literacy enables students to recognize their information needs, locate relevant information efficiently, critically evaluate information sources, and use information ethically. Researchers have also highlighted the growing importance of digital literacy and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills in helping students effectively utilize electronic information resources and academic databases.

Several studies have examined the relationship between information literacy and academic performance. Emeahara (2016) reported that inadequate information literacy skills limited postgraduate students' effective use of electronic information resources, thereby affecting their research productivity. Similarly, Ramamurthy (2015) found that continuous library user education and collaboration between librarians and faculty members significantly improved students' information literacy competencies. Bennani and Daoudi (2015) also emphasized the importance of developing information retrieval skills among higher education students to support academic and professional success.

Studies by Oakleaf (2009), Piranec and Mihaela (2010), and Hegarty and Hurley (2009) further demonstrated that systematic information literacy instruction enhances students' critical thinking, research abilities, and effective use of library resources. These studies also stressed the importance of integrating information literacy into higher education curricula through user education programmes and academic library initiatives.

Despite the growing body of research, the reviewed literature indicates that most information literacy studies have been conducted in universities and metropolitan institutions, while relatively few have focused on rural and semi-urban colleges, particularly in Bihar. Therefore, the present study addresses this gap by examining the use and impact of information literacy among students of Anjabit Singh College, Bikramganj, Rohtas, Bihar. The findings are expected to contribute to a better understanding of information literacy practices in rural higher education institutions and provide recommendations for strengthening library services and information literacy programmes.

### 3. RESEARCH GAP

Although numerous studies have examined information literacy in universities and urban higher education institutions, limited research has focused on rural and semi-urban colleges in Bihar. Existing studies provide insufficient evidence on students' information literacy skills, library resource utilization, and their impact on academic performance in such institutions. Therefore, the present study addresses this gap by investigating the use and impact of information literacy among students of Anjabit Singh College, Bikramganj, and provides recommendations for strengthening information literacy programmes and library services.

### 4. Objectives of the Study

The present study was conducted to examine the level of information literacy among the students of Anjabit Singh College, Bikramganj, Rohtas, Bihar, and to evaluate its influence on their academic activities. Specifically, the study aimed to:

1. To assess the level of information literacy among students of Anjabit Singh College, Bikramganj, Rohtas.
2. To examine the utilization of library resources and information services for academic purposes.
3. To analyze the impact of information literacy on students' academic performance and learning outcomes.

#### 4.1 Research Hypotheses

The study was guided by the following hypotheses:

- **H1:** Students of Anjabit Singh College possess a moderate to high level of information literacy skills.
- **H2:** There is a significant relationship between information literacy skills and the utilization of library resources and information services by students.
- **H3:** Information literacy has a significant positive impact on students' academic performance and learning outcomes.

### 5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study adopted a descriptive survey research design to assess the use and impact of information literacy among students of Anjabit Singh College, Bikramganj, Rohtas, Bihar. Primary data were collected from 375 students using a structured questionnaire, while relevant books, journals, reports, and online sources were consulted as secondary data. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques, including frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation, to evaluate students' information literacy skills, utilization of library resources and services, and the impact of information literacy on their academic performance.

## 6. Data Analysis and Discussion

The study analyzed data collected from 375 respondents using descriptive statistical techniques such as frequency and percentage analysis. The findings indicate that undergraduate students constituted the majority of respondents and were the primary users of the college library. Regarding library usage, 37.3% of respondents visited the library weekly, 29.3% visited daily, 22.7% used it occasionally, and 10.7% visited rarely, demonstrating that the library remains an important source of academic information.

The analysis further revealed that students mainly used the library for examination preparation, completing assignments, and accessing reference materials. Although most respondents were familiar with basic digital tools and internet resources, many experienced difficulties in evaluating the credibility of online information and using scholarly databases effectively. Limited ICT skills, inadequate awareness of e-resources, poor internet connectivity, and lack of formal information literacy training emerged as the major challenges affecting effective information use.

User satisfaction with library services was generally positive. Among the respondents, 42.7% were satisfied and 25.3% were highly satisfied with the available library resources and services, while only a small proportion expressed dissatisfaction. These findings indicate that the library effectively supports students' academic activities, although improvements in digital infrastructure and user education programmes are still required.

Overall, the study demonstrates that information literacy has a positive influence on students' academic learning and research activities. Students who regularly used library resources and possessed better information literacy skills were more confident in locating, evaluating, and utilizing information effectively. The findings emphasize the need for curriculum-integrated information literacy programmes, regular user orientation sessions, enhanced ICT facilities, and stronger collaboration between librarians and faculty members to improve students' information literacy competencies and academic performance.

### 6.1 Major Findings

The study revealed that the majority of respondents were aware of basic library resources and regularly used the library for academic purposes, particularly for examination preparation, assignments, and reference work. Most students possessed basic digital literacy skills and frequently accessed internet-based information; however, many lacked the ability to critically evaluate information sources and effectively use scholarly databases. The findings also indicated a positive relationship between information literacy and academic performance, as students with better information literacy skills demonstrated greater confidence in research and learning activities. User satisfaction with library services was generally high, although several challenges, including inadequate ICT infrastructure, limited awareness of e-resources, poor internet connectivity, and insufficient formal information literacy training, hindered the effective use of information resources. The study emphasizes the need for structured information literacy programmes, regular user orientation, improved digital library facilities, and stronger collaboration between librarians and faculty members to enhance students' academic and research competencies.

### 6.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that Anjabit Singh College should introduce a structured information literacy programme as part of the academic curriculum to enhance students' information searching, evaluation, and ethical use skills. Regular library orientation sessions, workshops, and hands-on training on the use of e-resources, online databases, and digital libraries should be organized to improve students' awareness and competencies. The college should strengthen its ICT infrastructure by providing reliable internet connectivity, adequate computer facilities, and access to quality electronic resources. Librarians and faculty members should work collaboratively to integrate information literacy into classroom teaching and research activities. Continuous user education, awareness campaigns, and periodic assessment of information literacy skills should also be undertaken to ensure the effective

utilization of library resources and to improve students' academic performance and lifelong learning abilities.

### 6.3 Conclusion

The present study concludes that information literacy is an essential component of academic success and plays a significant role in enhancing students' learning, research, and decision-making abilities at Anjabit Singh College, Bikramganj. The findings indicate that while most students are aware of basic library resources and regularly utilize them for academic purposes, there is a need to strengthen their competencies in evaluating information, using scholarly databases, and accessing digital resources effectively. Although user satisfaction with library services is generally positive, challenges such as inadequate ICT infrastructure, limited awareness of e-resources, and insufficient information literacy training continue to affect the optimal use of information resources. Therefore, the study concludes that strengthening information literacy programmes, improving digital library facilities, and promoting collaboration between librarians and faculty members will significantly enhance students' academic performance, research capabilities, and lifelong learning skills.

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