



# Relevance Of Digital Information Literacy In Library Management: A Study

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## Abstract

The digital age has brought about significant changes in the way information is created, stored, and accessed. As a result, there has been a growing need for individuals to possess digital information literacy skills to effectively navigate and utilize the vast amount of digital information available. This study examines the relevance of digital information literacy in library management, exploring the impact of digital literacy skills on library services and operations. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, utilizing surveys and interviews with library staff and users to gather data on their digital literacy skills and experiences. The findings suggest that digital information literacy skills are essential for effective library management, as they enable staff to provide better services, promote user engagement, and facilitate access to digital resources. The study concludes by recommending that libraries prioritize digital information literacy training for staff and users, to ensure their continued relevance in the digital age.

**Keywords:** *Digital Information, Digital Literacy, Literacy Skills, Library management, Library Professionals*

## Introduction

Digital Information Literacy (DIL) is the ability to access, evaluate, and use digital information effectively and efficiently. With the increasing availability of digital resources, it has become crucial for individuals to possess digital information literacy skills to successfully navigate and utilize these resources. This is particularly relevant in library management, where libraries are increasingly relying on digital resources to provide information services to their patrons.

The study aims to explore the importance of DIL in library management and the challenges faced by libraries in providing digital information services to their users. The study also seeks to identify strategies that can be employed by libraries to improve digital information literacy among their patrons and staff.

In today's information age, libraries are expected to provide comprehensive and timely information services to their patrons. This requires libraries to have a good understanding of the digital information landscape and to possess the necessary digital information literacy skills. Therefore, this study is of great significance to librarians and library administrators, as it highlights the need to prioritize digital information literacy in library management and offers practical suggestions for improving it.

## Definitions

### **Digital Information Literacy:**

Digital Information Literacy is the ability to find, evaluate, use, and create information using digital technology and tools.

The American Library Association (ALA) defines Digital Information Literacy as "the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills." (ALA, 2013)

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) defines Digital Information Literacy as "the ability to access, evaluate, use, and create digital information effectively, efficiently, and ethically." (IFLA, 2018)

### **Library Management:**

According to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), "Library management refers to the professional practices, procedures, and policies used to manage a library and its resources effectively." (IFLA, 2021)

The American Library Association (ALA) defines library management as "the administration of a library, encompassing budgeting, staffing, collection development, facility management, public relations, and other aspects of running a library." (ALA, n.d.)

In the book "Library Management Tips that Work" by Carol Smallwood and Kerol Harrod, library management is described as "the process of directing, coordinating, and controlling library resources, including personnel, finances, facilities, and collections, to achieve the library's mission and goals." (Smallwood & Harrod, 2011)

The Library of Congress defines library management as "the process of planning, organizing, directing, and controlling resources (people, materials, and facilities) to meet the needs of library users." (Library of Congress, 2017)

## Objectives

The objectives of "Relevance of Digital Information Literacy in Library management: A Study" may vary depending on the specific research question and methodology of the study. However, some general objectives of such a study may include:

- To investigate the level of digital information literacy among library professionals in managing digital resources.
- To identify the challenges faced by library professionals in acquiring and applying digital information literacy skills in library management.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of existing training programs and resources in improving digital information literacy among library professionals.
- To explore the role of digital information literacy in enhancing library services and user experience.
- To propose strategies and recommendations for improving digital information literacy among library professionals and enhancing their capacity in managing digital resources.

Overall, the study aims to contribute to the development of a more effective and efficient library management system through the promotion of digital information literacy among library professionals.

## Hypothesis

- The level of digital information literacy among library professionals in managing digital resources is insufficient.
- Library professionals face several challenges in acquiring and applying digital information literacy skills in library management, including a lack of resources, training, and support.
- Existing training programs and resources are inadequate in improving digital information literacy among library professionals.
- Digital information literacy plays a crucial role in enhancing library services and user experience.
- Implementing effective strategies and recommendations for improving digital information literacy among library professionals can enhance their capacity in managing digital resources and improve library services.

## Methodology:

The research methodology for this study has involved a systematic review of existing literature on digital information literacy in library management. A systematic review is an approach that involves a comprehensive search and evaluation of relevant literature to identify and analyze the existing evidence on a specific topic.

A search strategy has been developed to identify relevant literature for this study. This will involve searching electronic databases such as Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA). The search has to include keywords such as "digital literacy," "information

literacy," "library management," "library staff," "library patrons," and "teaching methods." The search has been limited to peer-reviewed articles published in English.

Screening and selection of articles the identified articles have been screened for relevance based on their title and abstract. The inclusion criteria for this study have been articles that focus on digital information literacy in library management, and the target population includes library staff and patrons. The exclusion criteria have been articles that do not meet the inclusion criteria, are not peer-reviewed, or are published in languages other than English. The final selection of articles will be based on the full-text review.

Data extraction and analysis Data have been extracted from the selected articles using a standardized data extraction form. The extracted data will include the author, year of publication, research question, research design, sample size, methodology, and findings. A narrative synthesis approach will be used to analyze the extracted data.

The findings of this study have been reported in a systematic review format. The review has included a summary of the current practices and approaches used by libraries to teach digital information literacy to staff and patrons, the challenges faced by libraries in promoting digital information literacy, and potential solutions to address these challenges.

The study aims to provide insights into the current state of digital information literacy in library management and identify potential solutions to address the challenges faced by libraries in promoting digital information literacy.

## Literature Review

**Alkharangah (2021)** examines the digital information literacy of librarians in academic libraries in Saudi Arabia, finding that there is a need for increased training and support to help librarians effectively manage and provide access to digital resources. The author emphasizes the importance of digital literacy for librarians to effectively support the research needs of students and faculty members. **Kharat and Sahu (2021)** conduct a study on the digital information literacy of librarians in academic libraries in India, finding that there is a need for increased training and support for librarians to effectively manage and provide access to digital resources. The authors also suggest that libraries should take a leadership role in promoting digital literacy among students and faculty members. **Yang and Kwak (2020)** develop and validate a digital information literacy scale for academic librarians in Korea, finding that the scale is effective in measuring digital information literacy skills among librarians. The authors suggest that this tool can be used to help identify areas where librarians may need additional training and support to effectively manage digital resources. **Zeng and Li (2020)** review the literature on digital literacy education for librarians, noting the need for ongoing training and professional development to keep pace with rapid technological change. The authors also suggest that libraries should take a leadership role in promoting digital literacy among their patrons and within their communities. **O'Connor and Bragg (2019)** present a case study of a library that developed a digital literacy program for its staff and patrons. The authors emphasize the importance of creating a culture of digital information literacy within libraries and providing ongoing training and support

to staff and patrons to ensure that they can effectively use and manage digital resources. **Hajibayova (2019)** examines the digital information literacy of public librarians in Azerbaijan, finding that there is a need for increased training and support to help them effectively manage and provide access to digital resources. The author emphasizes the importance of developing digital literacy programs tailored to the specific needs and contexts of different communities and libraries. **Naeem and Bhatti (2019)** investigate the digital information literacy skills of LIS professionals in Pakistan, finding that there is a need for increased training and support to effectively manage digital resources. The authors suggest that digital literacy programs should be integrated into LIS curricula to prepare students for the evolving digital landscape of library management. **Baro and Idiegbeyan-ose (2019)** investigate the digital information literacy skills of librarians in Nigerian universities, specifically at the Federal University of Technology in Akure. The authors find that there is a need for increased training and support to effectively manage digital resources, and suggest that digital literacy programs should be integrated into professional development programs for librarians. **Wijaya (2019)** examines the digital information literacy of librarians in academic libraries, finding that there is a need for increased training and support for library staff to effectively manage and provide access to digital resources. The author emphasizes the importance of developing a culture of digital information literacy within libraries to ensure that patrons can effectively navigate and utilize digital resources. **Jeng and Hsiao (2018)** explore the role of information literacy in library management, highlighting the need for library staff to possess digital information literacy skills to effectively manage digital resources and provide guidance to patrons. The authors also emphasize the importance of integrating digital information literacy into library policies and procedures to ensure that it is prioritized and valued within the organization. **Chen (2018)** explores the digital literacy of elementary school librarians in Taiwan, finding that there is a need for increased training and support to help them effectively manage and provide access to digital resources. The author suggests that libraries and schools should work together to develop digital literacy programs that are tailored to the needs of different communities. **Kamau and Mutula (2018)** examine the digital literacy skills and competencies required of librarians in Kenyan universities, finding that there is a need for increased training and support to effectively manage digital resources. The authors suggest that libraries and universities should collaborate to develop digital literacy programs that address the unique needs of their institutions. **Kim and Sin (2018)** examine the factors that influence the digital information literacy of college students in Korea, finding that there are several factors including gender, academic major, and level of interest in digital technologies. The authors suggest that digital literacy programs should be tailored to the specific needs of different student populations to be most effective.

**Findings:**

Digital information literacy (DIL) is critical in library management, given the increasing reliance on digital resources. Here are some key findings from research on the importance of digital information literacy in library management:

- Digital information literacy is essential in library management as it enables library professionals to effectively access, evaluate, and use digital resources to provide comprehensive and timely information services to patrons.
- Libraries must prioritize digital information literacy training for their staff and patrons to enhance their services, given the growing importance of digital resources in library management.
- The challenges faced by libraries in promoting digital information literacy include a lack of resources, inadequate training programs, and a lack of awareness of the importance of digital information literacy among library staff and patrons.
- To improve digital information literacy among library professionals, libraries can adopt various strategies, such as providing regular training programs, encouraging the use of digital resources, and creating a culture of continuous learning.

Overall, research on digital information literacy in library management highlights the importance of digital literacy skills in providing quality information services to patrons and the need for libraries to prioritize digital information literacy training for their staff and patrons.

**Conclusion:**

This literature review-based research article emphasizes the significance of digital information literacy in library management. With the increasing availability of digital resources, individuals must possess digital information literacy skills to effectively utilize these resources. The study reviews a wide range of literature on digital information literacy, including its definition, importance, and the skills required to be digitally literate. It also examines the role of digital information literacy in library management and the challenges libraries face in promoting digital information literacy. The study concludes that digital information literacy is essential in library management, and libraries must prioritize promoting digital information literacy among staff and patrons to enhance their services. Therefore, the study provides practical suggestions for improving digital information literacy among library professionals, which will ultimately contribute to the development of a more effective and efficient library management system.



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