

# Evaluation of Reading Habits of Engineering Students at JBIT library in the Era of Digital Transformation: A Study

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## ABSTRACT

The revolution of ICT and Internet has transformed libraries from conventional to contemporary. This is the era of ICT where human beings are connected through ICT directly or indirectly. Today, we cannot imagine our life without Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Internet and smart electronic devices such as Mobiles, Lap-Top, I-pad, etc. have become the significant parts of a student's life. Subsequently, we library professionals also adopted these technologies and modified our libraries in the form of 'Digital', 'Virtual', 'library 24x7', 'libraries without walls' and many more. There is no doubt that ICT and Internet have given the new life to the libraries and librarians as well as users have been taking optimum benefits through this technology. However, this is the one side of coin and definitely there is other side of coin, which shows the after effects of rapid use of Information and Technology that gradually students have become impatient in order to collect superficial knowledge. Moreover, it has come into the notice very often the reading practices of the students have been declining. With these motives the present study has been taken place. Questionnaire tool has been used for data collection and simple statistical techniques have been used for analysis. 100 students have randomly selected for survey and distributed questionnaire to them. In the users' response, 86 students have returned the filled questionnaire. Consequently, findings and suggestions are made.

**Keywords:** ICT, Digital Library, Virtual Library, Internet, Digital Transformation.

## INTRODUCTION:

Reading is intellectual activities that interpret printed tools and written words. Reading is considered as stepping stone to success not just in academic but also throughout of life an individual. "Reading has always been regarded as one of the oldest features of human advancement. It is said that reading is a crucial factor affecting intellectual and emotional growth. Today's scenario has changed drastically and there is much more emphasis put on reading than it was in the past. As far as reading is concerned, it seems that it is the most single study tool.

It is believed that there are two principal factors determining student's success at colleges, these are the teachers and the text books. Reading is often regarded as a vehicle for collecting ideas which can't be spread verbally. When students read well they are widening their mental horizons and multiply their opportunities." (Satija, 2002). Hence, the advancement of computer technology and Internet has made a new digital environment and all the occupations, individuals are influenced with this digital environment. Now everything has been changing from traditional towards digital, as concern of reading habits of college students it has been seen that the reading habits decreasing day by day.

The emergence of digital media and the growing collection of digital documents have had a profound impact on reading habits of students. To investigate reading habits of engineering students of JBIT and 'why students are reluctant about reading habits,' this study has been taken place.

To analyze reading habits, frequency to visit library, time spent in the library, purpose to come library and problem face while reading in digital environment, a simple random sampling method used for data collection.

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

To understand the reading habits of modern students in digital environment, various studies have been carried out since decades. Some relevant literature of reading habits in digital environment as mentioned here:

**Dorothy (2002)** says “reading is an integrative procedure that begins with the reader and incorporates the emotional, perceptual and intellectual domains.” **Liu (2005)** mentioned “that the development of electronic media may give adverse ramifications to reading that individuals are less engaged in extensive reading and do not have the capacity to read profoundly and sustain a

delayed engagement in reading.” **Obidike and Ezeji (2012)** revealed “that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) particularly Internet technology is having adverse impact on the reading culture of students in Nigeria.” **Thanuskodi et.al(2014)** explored “students need to improve their reading skills and library is the best place for quite study.” **Akanda et.al.(2015)** studied that “majority of the student meet in the library for reading purpose. The study emphasized on choice of reading material, internet usage and other relevant issues.

Therefore, above studies evidently show that reading habit is important activity in human life and impact of digital transformation has been seen on reading habits.

### NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

A significant part of academic studies will consist a great deal of background reading especially in engineering. Present digital environment is changing the reading habits of students.

A study in Nigeria has revealed that due to too much use of mobile phone chatting,use of social website, playing mobile games have been distracting students from readinghabits. Students want to invest their times on Internet rather than reading especiallyengineering students. So the present study is to analyze the reading habits and difficulties inthe digital scenario.

### OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

- i) To understand the reading habit among students of JBIT.
- ii) To know students’ major purpose to visit library.
- iii) To identify most preferred reading material by the students.
- iv) To assess how far their reading habit has been influenced in the digital transformation era.
- v) To take up necessary measures for the overall improvements of reading habit.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This study used survey method.

The questionnaire method has used to collect the data, apart from this; personal interview and observation method is also used. 100 library users have random selected and distributed questionnaire to them. After filling the questionnaire by the users,

it is collected by the author personally.

The total 86 filled questionnaire have received from the users. Simple tabulation and percentage method were used for data interpretation.

**RESEARCH ETHICS:**

In this study research ethics have been followed by the author, no personal information of respondents been collected by the author.

The questionnaire has filled by the users by their willingness; they are free to leave the questionnaire in any moment (if they don't want to fill up the same).

The disclaimer has written in the questionnaire that 'all the information which provided by the respondent will be used only for research purpose.'

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:**

**Table No-1: Total Participant**

S.N	Participants	Quantity(N)	Percentage
1.	UG Student	42	48.84%
2.	PG Students	8	9.30%
3.	Diploma	36	41.86%
	Total	86	(100%)

Table No-2: Purpose of using Library (Multiple Choice)

S.N	Students	Borrowing books	Reading News paper & Magazine	Access E-resources	For Internet Access	Any others
1.	UG Student (42)	12 (28.57%)	15 (35.71%)	9 (21.43%)	19 (45.24%)	
2.	PG Students (8)	5 (62.5%)	8 (100%)	7 (87.5%)	0	
3.	Diploma (36)	19 (52.78%)	10 (27.78%)	5 (13.89%)	23(63.89%)	

Table No-3: Preferred reading material

S.N	Students	Print reading	E-reading
1.	UG Student (42)	15 (35.71%)	27 (64.29%)
2.	PG Students (8)	3 (37.5%)	5 (62.5%)
3.	Diploma (36)	12 (33.33%)	24(67.67%)

Table No-4: Advancement of Internet/Information Technology made easy access of reading materials, User Opinions

S.N	Students	Yes	No
1.	UG Student (42)	37 (88.10%)	5 (11.90%)
2.	PG Students (8)	08 (100%)	-
3.	Diploma (36)	22 (61.11%)	14 (38.89%)

Table No-5: Desired information find by students, student's opinions

S.N	Students	Search on the Internet	Search in the library	Both
1.	UG Student (42)	15 (35.71%)	18 (42.86%)	9 (21.42%)
2.	PG Students (8)	1 (12.5%)	03 (37.5%)	4 (50%)
3.	Diploma (36)	9 (25%)	25 (69.44%)	2 (5.56%)

Table No-6: Reading Habits, User opinions, Yes/No

S.N	Students	Yes	No
1.	UG Student (42)	37 (88.10%)	5 (11.90%)
2.	PG Students (8)	07 (87.5%)	1 (12.5%)
3.	Diploma (36)	30 (83.33%)	6 (16.67%)

Table No-7: Library use for self study/ reading, User opinions, Yes/No

S.N	Students	Yes	No
1.	UG Student (42)	34 (80.96%)	3 (7.14%)
2.	PG Students (8)	07 (87.5%)	1 (12.5%)
3.	Diploma (36)	27 (75%)	9 (25%)



Table No-8: Frequency to use library for self study/ reading, Users opinions

S.N	Students	Daily	2-3 Times in a week	On weekends	Fortnightly	Monthly
1.	UG Student (34)	18 (52.94%)	9 (26.47%)	7 (20.59%)	0	0
2.	PG Students (7)	4 (57.14%)	2 (28.57%)	1 (14.29%)	0	0
3.	Diploma (27)	14 (51.85%)	8 (29.63%)	5 (18.52%)	0	0



Table No-9: Time to utilize in the library for self study/ reading in a week, Users opinions

Students	2- 5 hours (weekly)	6-14 hours (weekly)	15- 21 hours (weekly)	22- 28 hours (weekly)	More than 28 hours (weekly)
UG Student (34)	9 (26.47%)	6 (17.65%)	10 (29.41%)	5 (14.70%)	4 (11.77%)
PG Students (7)	0	3 (42.86%)	2 (28.58%)	1 (14.28%)	1 (14.28%)
Diploma (27)	6 (22.22%)	10 (37.04%)	4 (14.81%)	7 (25.93%)	0

Table No-10 Advancement of Internet/Information Technology and Reading habits, Student Opinions

S.N	Statements	Respondent	Students Opinions		
			Yes	No	No Idea
1.	Information Technology/ Internet help to increase reading habits	UG (42)	36 (85.71%)	04 (9.52%)	02 (4.77%)
		PG (8)	05 (62.5%)	02 (25%)	01 (12.5%)
		Diploma (36)	29 (80.56%)	04 (11.11%)	03 (8.33%)
2.	Information Technology/ Internet is cause of decreasing reading habits	UG	04 (9.52%)	36 (85.71%)	02 (4.77%)
		PG	02 (25%)	05 (62.5%)	01 (12.5%)
		Diploma	04 (11.11%)	29 (80.56%)	03 (8.33%)
3.	Information Technology/ Internet has no effects on reading habits	UG	08 (19.05%)	32 (76.19%)	02 (4.76%)
		PG	02 (25%)	04 (50%)	02 (25%)
		Diploma	10 (27.78%)	22 (61.11%)	04 (11.11%)

### **FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS:**

The major content of present study to evaluate reading habits of engineering students' at JBIT library in the era of digital transformation.

Subsequently, a survey has conducted and questionnaires have distributed to 100 randomly selected students. Total 86 students participated in the survey and returned their filled questionnaire.

As per the received data, tables have been made; evaluated and following findings are observed:

1. It is found that more than 60% students have given their preference to e-contents rather than hard copy reading materials.
2. Majority of students accepted that advancement of ICT/ Internet has made easy access of reading materials.
3. It is found that 42.86% UG & 69.44% Diploma students have searched their desired information from the library and 50% PG students preferred both, Internet as well as library.
4. It is found that more than 70% students accepted that they have reading habits and they use library for self study/ reading.
5. It is found that majority of students are utilizing more than 2-3hours daily in the library for reading.
6. It has been found that maximum student agree that Internet/Information Technology increase their reading habits. Moreover, students believe that advancement of internet made easy access of world-wide reading materials. Furthermore, trendy electronic gadgets makes available desired reading materials 24x7 therefore these advanced electronic gadgets and availability of Internet is increasing their reading habits.

**Suggestions:** on the basis of above findings, personal interview and observations

following suggestions can be beneficial for the improvements:

1. Multilingual motivational literature, science fiction can be attracted students towards library for more reading.
2. It is observed if timing of reading area is increases so definitely some more students can utilize their time in the reading.
3. If library think towards provide some e-book reader devices to the students so they can more fascinate for reading.
4. Awareness programmers should be organized.



## CONCLUSION:

The principal goal of present study to evaluate the reading habits of JBIT engineering student in this era of digital transformation. Today, the advancement of ICT and Internet has become the essential part of human being and all the professions have been adopting this digital transformation direct or indirect including library profession.

The study observed that younger generation is feeling comfortable in order to utilization all kind of technology and they have been adopting all the technology advancement with friendly moods.

It has been observed that engineering students have been using lab-top, mobile, and other smart electronic devices for their study.

The study revealed that digital transformation has been giving impact on engineering students and it's affected their reading habits also.

But somewhere the advancement of Internet provides instant information to the students and that's why students are being inclining towards digital reading compare to tradition.

However, this is the responsibility of information personnel that they should provide awareness to them in order to understand differences between knowledge and information.

Nevertheless, study found that majority of students accepted that 'they have reading habits' and they are using library for self study and averagely they have been utilizing 15-21hours weekly in the library for said purpose.

Therefore study has achieved the principle goal i.e. JBIT students have reading habits but every coin has two faces, from one hand internet has been providing them digital information and from another hand students have been spending their too much time on social networking site along with gossiping and chatting.

Technology is open for everyone but it's depending on us how we utilize it.

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