

**DIGITAL INFORMATION  
LITERACY IN  
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES**

## **The Author**



**Dr. Yogita Sharma** has a brilliant academic career. She has a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from Panjab University, Chandigarh with gold medal. She has done her PhD from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. She is in this profession for the last nineteen years. Presently, she is working as Deputy Librarian and heading the Digital Library along with the Technical Division at Punjab Agricultural University Library, Ludhiana. Dr. Yogita Sharma has published various research papers in professional journals and presented a number of papers in various conferences and seminars. She also teaches Library and its services course to the post-graduate students in PAU. She is associated with various professional associations. Her areas of interest are digital information literacy, e-resources, information science, library management and digitization.

# **DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY IN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES**

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## **PREFACE**

The libraries are basically service institutions with users and collection constituting the major ingredients. Undoubtedly, users form the backbone and reason for the existence of the libraries. The main focus of the libraries is to serve the users' upto their satisfaction. Consequently, the user studies are an integral component of research in library and Information Science in India, as such studies enable the Libraries to improve further and serve the users better. It is a known fact that the libraries have changed gradually to keep pace with technological advancements in terms of automation, digitization and digital resources of information, which has become a dominating part of the collection and services of the Libraries nowadays. Accordingly, it is of dire need to study the adaptability of users' towards digital resources of information. The same paved my way into initiating and successfully completing a doctoral research work on digital information literacy of post-graduate students of the agricultural universities of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. This book aimed to share my doctoral research work with wider professional community.

The present study has been conducted using relevant investigation methods and data collection tools and techniques. Descriptive research design with survey method was used with a fact-finding approach. The research methodology followed in this study involved collection and interpretation of data to find causal connections and relations for the existing status of DIL skills on sample of students. Further, the questionnaire method has been adopted as a data collection tool.

A systematic attempt is made to determine various aspects like extent of use of digital resources of information (DRI), proficiency in searching and evaluating DRI, understanding of ethical use of DRI, adoption of DIL in social lives, training needs with regard to DIL and role of the library and information science professionals in the information gathering process from DRI. Questions were framed about the digital information requirements of the students, how effectively and

efficiently students locate, evaluate and use information from DRI. In order to enable cross-checking of data for its validity, reliability and consistency, the data was analyzed for various statistical parameters-frequency distribution, percentage, weighted index, Karl Pearson's Correlation Coefficient and Pearson's Chi Squared Test. Some related past studies were also consulted and an extensive comparison of the results was made. However, review of literature has been merged with introduction chapter in concise form. The results and findings have been presented elaborately and further areas of research have also been identified.

This book intends to serve as an important tool for students, teachers, researchers and practitioners in the field of Library and Information Science. This book will be highly useful to the researchers in terms of methodology and findings to conduct similar studies on other groups of users in the country and comparing similar studies done abroad.

I will always remain indebted to my mentor and supervisor of my research work Prof. Neena Talwar Kanungo, Faculty of Library and Information Science, School of Social Sciences, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi for her valuable guidance and never ending support. I am grateful to the students of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar; Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalya, Palampur and Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana for extending their whole hearted support by filling the questionnaires. I am obliged to the authorities and colleagues of these universities who have helped me in this research work. My thanks are also due to Scientific Publishers (India), Jodhpur for publishing the book.

**YOGITA SHARMA**

Ludhiana

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Sr. no.	Term	Abbreviation
1	American Library Association	ALA
2	Association of College and Research Libraries	ACRL
3	Automatic Teller Machine	ATM
4	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	HAU
5	Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur	HPKV
6	Chi-squared test/ Pearson's chi-squared test/ Chi-square/ Pearson's chi-square	$\chi^2$
7	Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux	CAB
8	Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture	CeRA
9	Correlation/ Correlation coefficient/ Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient	r
10	Degree of freedom	df
11	Digital Information Competency Level	DICL
12	Digital Information Competency Level Score	DICLS
13	Digital Information Literacy	DIL
14	Digital Resources of Information	DRI
15	Figure	Fig.
16	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	ICAR
17	Information and Communication Technology	ICT
18	Information Literacy	IL
19	Library and Information Science	LIS

20	Number of Respondents	R
21	Post-graduate	PG
22	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	PAU
23	Under-graduate	UG
24	Uniform Resource Locator	URL
25	Weighted Index	W.I.



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