



Research Paper

# Information Literacy for Education College Student-Teachers

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**Abstract:**

*Critical Thinking Skills, Problem Solving and Decision Making – these three spell phrases refer to cognitive skills that are necessary to create new knowledge and to learn how to learn and capacity to create and use information effectively. Now our country is moving towards information and knowledge based society, our student and faculty members must have competent literary information skills. Information Literacy is very important for teacher education curriculum with proper training.*

**Keywords:** Information Literacy, Teacher Education, Critical Thinking, Information Skills.

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## I. Introduction:

School education is the basement for human's life and also a staircase to enter into next stage of education. If student got good basement i.e. studies in the schools, which was the blessing of god. The basement will be given by the teachers. Motivate and creative teachers change any poor atmosphere of the school to good atmosphere means shaper their students. Quality teachers are created by good teacher educators. If teacher educators are to use information literacy, then the student teachers can learn from them, then well trained teachers apply knowledge teaching in his/her class rooms. So teacher educators must be informative.

Present period of world is information age. Our information choices are print, electronic, image, sound and visual. If a country wants to develop in the fields of socially, economically and educationally, etc only giving more importance to research. Without research no possibility of development. Like library or any other information centers play vital role in research in any discipline of institutions.

## CONTEXT OF THE PROBLEM:

Effective school education anticipates effective teacher education. In making teacher education truly effective and functional, the role of teacher educators are more advanced in knowledge. In 1998 NCTE had pointed out that teacher education programs giving colleges must have the facilities like library and labs.

Present period of world is information age so the younger generations know the importance of socio-cultural and economic development for their future. In this regard they need to be equipped with new skills, knowledge and ideas.

To improve the quality of teacher education, we should not only see that what type of students are selected but it is of vital importance that competent training through information knowledge will be given.

Information skills, information literacy and any other forms of user education training program have become important strategic methods for academic libraries and other information services.

By providing information about the resources of educational college library enabling its people to use effectively.

In India, we are having vast number of educational colleges. Among many are giving research degree also. During inspection time, educational college libraries only initially visited. By this, we know educational college library's important. In India 8332 bachelor degree education colleges and 8 lakh students are studying in a year.

There is no doubt that we are presently in an information age; an era in which the more knowledgeable a person is, the more powerful he/she is likely to become. The advent of information technology is a great booster to this era.

The faculties and students must have the skills to get their relevant information required in time and to know what information they need and how they can get it, and how they will use it effectively and efficiently. This set of special skills is called Information Literacy.

**DEFINITION FOR INFORMATION LITERACY:**

The concept of “Information Literacy” was first introduced in 1974 by Paul Zurkowsky, President of Information Literacy Association. Source or any other form of media film, DVD, radio and television, etc. called as information literacy.

The Association of College and Research Libraries defines “Information Literacy as a set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information is produced and used.

“Information Literacy” is the ability to think critically and make balanced judgements about any information we find and use.

According to Dillon & Henri “Educational college librarians have to provide broader services and better access to information”.

In information is as “news or facts about something”, Random House College Dictionary suggests for information, “knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstances new”.

**RATIONALE FOR INFORMATION LITERACY FOR TEACHERS:**

The American Library Association Presidential Committee on information literacy recognized that the “information age is divorced from most teaching styles”(ALA 1989). In its report, the ALA Presidential Committee called for a restructuring of the learning process in order to create new information-age school characterized by interactive, self-initiated learning with the teacher as the guide to learning.

In March, 1998 – the National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL), a broad based association of over 65 national organizations, issued a report on “Information Literacy” in which they reported on the status of the recommendations of the 1989 report. Recommendation of the Report 1989 stated that “Teacher education and performance expectations should be modified to include information Literacy concerns. Increase in information technology has resulted in the development of new standards, which deal in whole or part with information literacy skills. The International Society for Technology Standards Projects (NETS) has begun a multi-year effort to “effectively support use of technology for teaching-learning and administration” (Thomas, 1998) and also helps to locate, evaluate and collect information from variety of sources.

The Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools has been implementing standards for information literacy at the institutional level for some years. The association offers professional development workshops on this topic in conjunction with its national meetings.

Recent studies in cognitive science refute the notion that content comes before process, recognizing that the process of accessing, evaluating and using information is integral to understanding content. The information literate teacher will also be able to select and use resources most appropriate to multiple intelligences and learning styles.

**AIMS OF INFORMATION LITERACY:**

- The ability to process of intellectual access includes the development of a strategy for locating information connected with latest information about the teaching methods.
- Providing access to and using resource based learning experience in the education field.
- The information-literate student/faculty will also be able to select and use resources most appropriate to multiple intelligences and learning styles.
- The teacher educators must develop multiple skills among the student teachers in the way of getting information from various sources like seminars and conferences about information literacy for education institutions.
- The student-teachers will be encouraged by the teacher educators to organize the program for modern technology to find out the information resources availability for their development.

**OBJECTIVES OF INFORMATION LITERACY:**

- Usage of national and international academic networks for teacher education getting needed information.
- Development of database searching techniques in the field of teaching.
- Using local library networks for getting documents through inter-library loan to improve the skills to teach.
- Conducting information literacy program in the library for knowing latest information about their courses/studies.
- Apply latest (current) information technology relevant to their studies.

- Resource literacy is ability to understand the form, format, location and access methods of information resources connecting with teaching.

#### **SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF INFORMATION LITERACY:**

- Get inside of the library is as comfort zone for readers.
- If make small mistakes, forgive them freely.
- It is a common way for faculty to introduce first year students about library resources.
- The information literacy education is to help students to expand their knowledge.
- Resource literacy, or the ability to understand the form, format, location and access methods of information on resources, especially daily expanding networked information resources.
- Ability to manage the requirement of users.
- Purposeful work, focused attention and effort, respectable environment increases users.
- Librarian must be polite and helpful.

#### **NEED OF INFORMATION LITERACY:**

- According to Miner “preparing prospective teachers for ongoing self renewal in terms of life-long learning” (1992).
- O’ Hanlon stated that Information Literacy for teachers that emphasises collaborative and problem solving activities relevant to the student-teacher.
- The Education and Behavioural Science Section (EBSS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) places emphasis on conceptually based skills for searching, retrieving, and evaluating information for learners who are undergraduate students, graduate students, practitioners, and researchers. The EBSS identifies a sequence of skills that begins with understanding that the generation and communication of knowledge in Education includes recorded and unrecorded sources formats that differ in publication cycles and authority.
- Guide Teacher Education Faculty and Instruction Librarians in developing information literacy instruction for teacher education.
- Enable the evaluation and assessment of such instruction and curricula through bench marking outgoing.

## **II. CONCLUSION:**

Information Literacy is an essential skill for the twenty first century. Professional associations for k-12 and higher education have recognized the importance of information literacy to the teaching-learning process. Maximum number of teacher educators and student-teachers utilize the libraries of educational colleges. Compare to other higher studies the educational college student strength is less even though usage of libraries are high. Further to increase library usage among educational institution students, to take necessary steps to improve the up-date collection, conduct orientation program, workshops and seminars. In some educational institutions information literacy is still in its infancy, and has therefore not yet had a tremendous effect in utilization of resources. If this type of institutions to adopt information literacy concept, they will come up.

Present century Information Literacy Education is undeniable.

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