E-Reading Impact on Learning Process in Students: A Study in Kuwait

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Abstract—**The use of electronic resources in academic students made a tremendous change in their way of studies and learning. (Izuagbe, Hamzat, & Joseph, 2016). The study aims to seeks the difference between print and electronic resources in students in Kuwait technical college, moreover in intends to evaluate the barriers in use of new trends in Electronic Information Services**

Design /Methodology: Questionnaire and observation methods were used for data collection. The analysis of data collected covers the previous experience of electronic resources usage acquaintance with different publisher application, problem faced while using resources.

Findings: The findings of the study show that respondents are aware of the e-books usage and its importance. A large majority is using the e-books first time for their direct academic purpose and they believe that the e-books will dominate in the near future. All the students visit the electronic resources portal and website even once in week and the electronic resources can be replaced by the print materials soon.

Index Terms—**Keywords.**

I. INTRODUCTION

In the present electronic information age, librarians and users are needed to be more technical expertise than subject expert. In the case of electronic book use, licensing which required adherence to a set of contractual obligations are becoming most important factor to be considered before purchase. (Thornton, 2000). The users of electronic resources facing with the navigating complexities, the library are seen as a source of training and guidance to a community of learners.

Being library and librarian a hub of academic resources and technical support of institutes, Heather Joseph's - the executive director of SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) - observation about academic resources and libraries are remarkable. She states that: this is the time of change librarians from working "outside in" to working "inside out." Further, libraries are becoming more open and easily accessible this is the view which is exactly describes the transformation aspect of libraries. The librarians' role is essentially facilitating the scholarly conversation. Traditionally, they have focused on picking the best content to bring into their institutions—into the library collections—so that it's available. In the open access environment, if they are doing their jobs, focus on pushing out the quality intellectual output from the institutions. They should be helping the researchers make available whatever content they want to share (Joseph, 2016). So, the students and users of e-resources need to be well aware of the transformation of e-resources and library services in this dynamic and increasingly global digital academic environment.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The transformation of conventional study style of print books in the schools, to high tech electronic platform in the higher institutes makes the students little embarrassed. The introduction of academic e-books facilitates the students to get the benefits of easy to access and multimedia support. Moreover, the technology has changed the style of study, assignments and way of approach to education. Many studies have done by the researchers of this transformation. The students are ready to accept the new change of electronic book despite they are presently not completely comfort. This is the high time to share innovative practices and concepts across nationally and internationally, and among all the service provider and publishers and lack of training opportunities to support the ongoing transformation of study materials made students difficult to face the present scenario. Keeping in view of these aspects, the present study has been taken up in Kuwait Technical College to know what positive changes made in the way of studies and student's level of confidence in use of e-books than print.

III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

In the light of purpose of the study was to investigate the awareness of utilization level of electronic book in academic purposes and the level of comfort of using the new platform of electronic devices and the other objectives of the study are:
- To explore the requirement of training for complete utilization of resource
- To identify the problem faced by the students in accessing the e-books
- To know the success rate of using utilization of e-books in academic purpose
- To know the significance of e-resources over conventional documents
- To understand the opinion regarding features of e-books

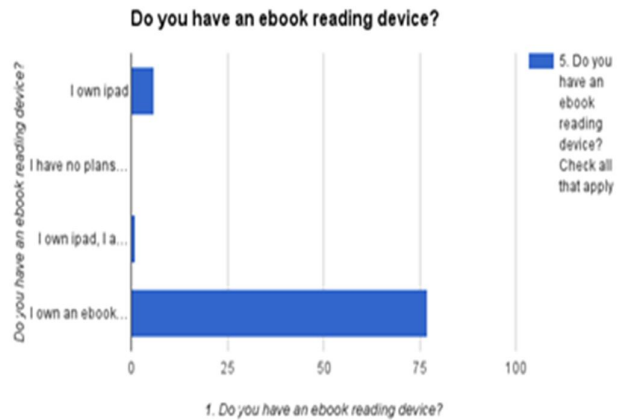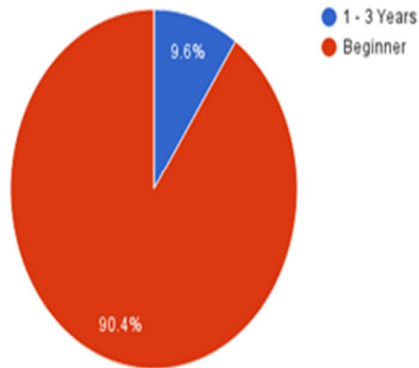IV. KUWAIT TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND STUDENTS OF KUWAIT

Kuwait, an Arab country on the Persian (Arabian) Gulf, has cultural heritage dating back to antiquity. It is an oil rich country, has a leading position in the financial industry in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Kuwait is a small, petroleum-based economy. The Kuwaiti dinar is the highest-valued unit of currency in the world. According to the World Bank, Kuwait is the fourth richest country in the world per capita. Kuwait is the second richest GCC country per capita. This study conducted in Kuwait Technical College, a newly established educational institute in Kuwait with a modern approach of practical education by pursuing a vocational and practical career. The college is focused on providing students with two primary areas of study with Management and Information Technology courses. The courses offered in Kuwait Technical College are Information Technology and Business Management. The Department of English and General Studies offer the foundation program consists of two semesters of intensive English, Math and IT courses. Math course consist of Technical Mathematics provides a functional approach to college algebra including study of polynomial, rational, radical and logarithmic functions together with sequences and series. The other math courses are College Algebra and Statistics for Decision making. College Algebra includes study of polynomial, rational, radical and logarithmic functions together with sequences and series and Statics Studies includes both descriptive statics and inferential concepts. This year onwards these three math courses started e-books and due to non-availability of print text book in this particular geographical area two management courses also started electronic books. Online interactive and educational system designed by Pearson Education's My Math Lab introduced in the college for Math courses. My Math Lab has many features like homework, quizzes, tests etc. Instructors can evaluate students' learning progress and time spent on assignments which easily help instructors to give extra attention on weak students. Instructors may set up a customized MyMathLab course.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONAL

Nearly all students in the college are beginners of using the licensed electronic books for their academic studies. As shown in the figure more than 90% didn't use any electronic books in their schooling. A total number of 23 questions were asked to the students and responded. It has been noted that nobody owns any dedicated e-book reading device like kindle or Nook. But the entire respondent to the survey owned the

ipad/tab or laptop. It is evident that the students access e-books through their own handy devices and agreed that they have a feel of carry the books every-time with them.

1. How long you are using E-books

Do you have an ebook reading device?

VI. DIGITAL LITERACY

The Knowledge, skills and behavior used in large sense of digital Literacy need to be developed as an essential skill of students by implementing more official and educational applications only in electronic formats. The educationalists are described the present age of reading and education as a mixed behavior of reading. It should be essentially acquire the skills of locate, organize, understand, evaluate and analyze information using digital technology. It involves a working knowledge of current high technology and not just being literate at using a computer. The digital literacy also can be defined as the capabilities which fit someone for living, learning and working in a digital society.
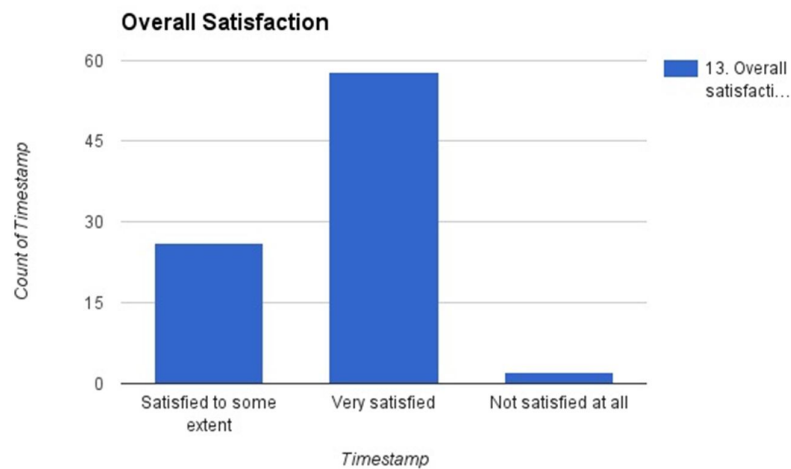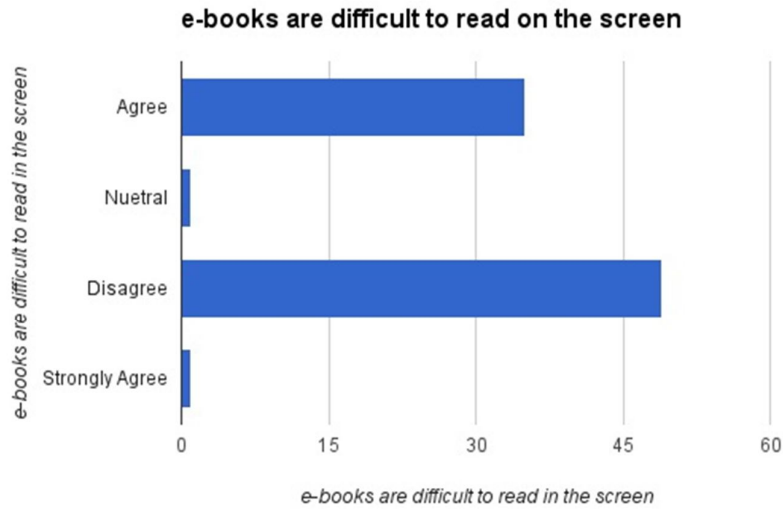
Even-though the students face many hindrances and barriers over the e-reading, the response on the overall satisfaction of electronic book had shown favorable. They foresee a bright future of e-books and satisfied on present books they are used. The figure shows more than 90% are satisfied. Digital Rights Management (DRM) or DMR is also involved as a part of digital literacy as it is control access to copyrighted materials.

VII. FROM PAPER TO SCREEN

As all the students are beginners, respondents' general preference was print as compared to e-books. But all the students reported that they are using e-books and well aware of fast transformation of the academic platform. Variations in e-book usage in academic work are found in both status and area of study. The senior students reported the high usage which shows choosing depends upon their experience and awareness of the electronic resources and using as their first strategy for seeking information.

Habits and attitude appeared to be important here while reading a digital text book. As shown in the figure below, screen is not finding a best alternative to print by the most of students even they depends the screen for all other purposes. Many students still agree reading the text book on screen is difficult. The dedicated e-book readers are rapidly becoming their property; perhaps they will purchase more e-books instead of print books. Then, if we manage to make them more accessible they will eventually the e-books will be more user-friendly.

It is evident that licensing and Digital Management Rights (DMR) of e-books being an obstacle of purchasing e-books than print that restrict and complicate the downloading and use. It involves the use of technology to control access to copyrighted materials. High usages of Internet and tablet or mobile phones are not enough to being master the art of digital reading. The way that the students are taught to read and study in schools is indispensable and some cases even the faculties are not supported the e-reading. If the schools were able to integrate digital learning better, it would have been help the students to ease their e-book reading. We need to get accustomed to a new type of medium before use it to its full potential and to be felt comfortable doing so.

e-books are difficult to read on the screen

e-books are difficult to read in the screen

Overall Satisfaction

VIII. CONCLUSION

On the basis of analysis the approach on e-books in the students and their acceptance of the technology transformation found little difficult. It is very important to keep pace with the latest technological developments and it is necessary that the faculty should be proactive in supporting to include the electronic resources in their curriculum and encourage them to use since the e-books are becoming more popular and electronic resources are going to be dominated in the future. It is quite desirable that the students who participated in the survey were aware that e-books will replace the print in near future shows a good indication. So this can be considered as natural difficulties in the transformation period. Necessary training must be provided to the students enabling them to use the electronic resources more effectively and efficiently. The opinion and suggestions to be collected which will help to improving the system are required to be converted in to reality.

The survey was also trying to examine the kinds of barriers do the students experience with electronic books usage. Many of the respondents found a variety of other barriers that hindered their e-book usage. The lack of support services, assistance and even lack of dedicated e-reader could account for the finding that many

students did not use electronic books. Further there were barriers to seeking strategies and not to getting the proper encouragement from the department.

The study also indicated that students may become discouraged by electronic books and turn to traditional print book as the institute and department are not taking the proper steps to implement electronic resources for their academic use. The foundation students need to get guidance and to be introduced more subjects to electronic format where they could judge if the available electronic information was totally utilize by them. Even of those students who got the maximum utilized found the printed materials always required as alternative.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

As electronic books are plays an important and meaningful role by offering the user more facilities; the crucial issue is to choose which are the more relevant. Electronic book can undoubtedly share the same space and the same audience of paper book as long as they are properly designed and implemented. The students must be with the change of reading and study materials as E-books became an accepted means of information sources in the present academic system.

1. The publisher and faculty should assist the students in the foundation level, so that it will be helpful to use of e-books for completion of assignments, presentations, theses and projects electronically

2. The students as well as faculties should be educated to use of updated version of education systems by encouraging them introducing more electronic books

3. The library and concerned department should find ways to regularly inform students of the availability of existing and new electronic resources through website, department announcement boards will increase the awareness and use of resources

The study indicates that the use of e-books by the student needs to be considerably optimized. The departments and library should develop specific web pages, blogs; wikis accommodating the course oriented topics in conjunction with the navigation facilities to all subscribed or purchased e-books and open access e-information resources. These course oriented webpages should be linked with institute website and LMS which in turn can help the students use these resources easily and conveniently. These pages should be updates with utmost care.

Finally, the further studies are needed on ways to improve and encourage student's use of electronic information resources.

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