

## UNDERGRADUATE'S PERSPECTIVES ON INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAM: AN INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Abstract

Information Literacy (IL) skill is essential for the academic library users that directly affected on their academic performance. IL skill allows them to find, select and acquire quality information when necessary. This paper describes the third year undergraduate's perspectives on Information literacy lecture series conducted by the Allied Health Sciences library, Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka. IL lecture series consists with four components; Information Sources, effective search strategy, search techniques and PubMed searching, referencing and Mendeley. Survey methodology has been used for the study and data collection tool was the questionnaire. Only the BPharm hons and Bsc hons in Medical laboratory Sciences students considered for the study. Majority of the respondents stated that Information literacy skill is essential for them to achieve academic goals. The study reveals that most of the undergraduates (65%) preferred to access google for information searching instead of databases. It might be due to inadequacy of awareness on databases and search techniques. Accordingly, Respondents rated IL lecture series as important since it provided them proper guide on database use, search techniques and evaluate information sources. 74% participants did not aware on evaluation criteria of information sources and used to refer unreliable information sources. It was found that undergraduates do not follow reference management software and faced many issues while preparing bibliographies manually. According to the findings majority were agreed that reference management software is essential for them. Inadequate of hand on session was identified lacking parts of the program. According to the study, it can be suggested to add more IL lecture components and to conduct lectures first year to final year students that will enhance IL skill of them.

**Keywords:** *Information literacy, Undergraduates, search strategy, reference management, information sources*