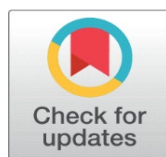
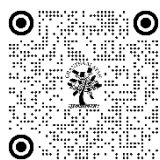


ATTITUDE OF THE PH.D RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY TOWARDS USING WEB-BASED INFORMATION RESOURCES

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DOI

[10.29121/shodhkosh.v3.i2.2022.2407](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v3.i2.2022.2407)

Funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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ABSTRACT

The web-based information resources are any kind of information resources that are received from various websites in the form of verbal, non-verbal, pictorial, auditory, written, video, podcasts, documentaries, movie, e-books etc. The necessity of web-based information resources is felt not only by students and academicians and scholars but by every human on earth, this is because of its easily accessible and “create and share” nature. The educational institutions of all levels are seen accessing and relying upon these web-based information resources. The Ph.D. research scholars are seen using the web-based information resources in abundance for their research purpose. Thus, this study prioritizes to find out the difference between male and female Ph.D. research scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using web-based information resources and difference among Arts, Commerce, Science stream Ph.D. research scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using web-based information resources. The researcher found that there was no difference between Male and Female Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources. There is a significant difference in the attitude of the Arts and Science Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources. There is a significant difference in the attitude of the Arts and Commerce Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources. Whereas, there is no significant difference in the attitude of the Science and Commerce Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources.

Keywords: Internet, Web-Based Information Resources, Connectivism



1. INTRODUCTION

The Web 1.0 lasted from 1989 to 2005 and the emergence of the web 2.0 could be traced from around 2005 onwards. In India, the growth in the curve of access to internet could be seen rapidly after the year 2015 when the BJP government initiated the Digitalization of India with an aim to connect the rural areas with high speed network and digital literacy. This resulted in the growth of number of internet users manifold. The Web (World Wide Web) which is a subset of Internet originated in the year 1989 consists of the multiple pages that provide information from various sources when browsed through Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox. Web resources are information available in world wide web that can be identified, named, handled, addressed in web at large by the users at their ends. The web which is the store house of information is not confined to the scope of only providing mere information but to assist the whole learner's community and bring a holistic change in education system all over the globe. Web-based resources are eminent treasure of knowledge for the learners of new generation to acquire latest and fresh information across the globe. The digital library was launched in the year 2017 by the HR minister Prakash Javadekar. The objective of digital library is to virtual teaching-learning-evaluation, knowledge discovery and innovation platform. The digital library is an

initiative taken by the Indian government to make the citizens abreast of knowledge and promote education. The OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) is the service provided by the library to the users to access the collection of present resources in the library. It is a online database of materials held by a library or group of libraries. Users search a library catalog principally to locate books and other material available at a library. Open access is a publishing way for scholarly communication that makes research information available to readers at no cost, as opposed to the traditional subscription model in which readers have access to scholarly information by paying a subscription.

Connectivism is the latest approach to the education emerged to conform with the era of technology as a result of transformation from traditional learning to web-based learning. It is a paradigm shift in the learning process. The knowledge is no longer considered to be attained or constructed rather it is reorganization or choosing of relevant information as knowledge keeps on changing and people tend to grasp knowledge every day and life of knowledge is measured in years now not in decades. Hence, the web-based resources is giving a smooth ignition to the Connectivism.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESENT STUDY

Research is a most significant aspect for the development and well being of a country. The researchers put effort throughout the day and night to solve the unsolved and to explore the unexplored for the community and so thus the innovations and novelty could be seen all over the world. Dibrugarh University, which is one of the premiere institutions of the world has been offering different academic programs along with Ph.D. program and M.Phil. program and is a hub of many national and international scholars. The university has a magnificent library facility and has all other facilities that a researcher could need. The 21st century researchers are more active, updated and technologically sound which is why they need an environment that can avail the required resources to cater their needs for brilliant research works to conduct. It is of utmost necessity to know the researchers needs, thoughts, ideas for providing them a better research environment. Thus, this study will help to draw out from the differences in attitude towards usage of web-based information resources between male and female research scholars and among the Arts, Science and Commerce stream research scholars of Dibrugarh University.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

3.1 To study the difference between Male and Female Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources.

3.2 To study the difference among the Arts, Science and Commerce Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources.

4. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

4.1 There is no significant difference between Male and Female Ph.D Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web- Based Information resources.

4.2 There is no significant difference among Arts, Science and Commerce Ph.D Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web- Based Information resources.

5. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

5.1 STUDIES CONDUCTED IN INDIA

Dr. Iqbal Singh Brar. (2016) has conducted a study entitled "Use of Web Based Information Resources and Services" This is a survey where he tries to find out the purpose, preferences, impact and barriers of web-based information resources. The findings of his study were that 48% respondents use web-based information for use for searching the document/ information. 29.4% of the respondents use web-based information resources for getting an overview of literature and 22.6% of the respondents preferred to use to keep themselves up. 14.7% of the respondents who have indicated that they have language as the major barrier for accessing web-based information sources.

Deepa and Abdul (2016) in their study on "Use of Web based Information Resources and Services by Research Scholars: A case study of the University of Calicut" found that most of the research scholars are not utilizing the web services provided through the library properly as the research scholars are unaware of the facilities which are provided through the web. The web-based services are hidden behind the library website and to reach this service to the users, library should provide training and orientation classes from time to time.

Amin Syed.(2016) carried a study on “Internet use and gender difference at the Senior Secondary school level” where it is found that there is a significant difference between mean score of male and female senior secondary school students regarding usage of internet for academic purpose, recreation purpose, social networking site usage.

Nisha (2020) conducted a research work entitled “A study on Attitude of Research Scholars towards Open Access Resources” and the findings were such that as open access journals are more easily accessible and consistent, the graduate students are most interested to use open access and open publishing. The study shows that there is no clarity in opinion regarding the peer - reviewing system in open access platforms. Researchers believe that open access are cost effective and they are used effectively in qualitative research because high quality of the journals and books are published in an open access platform.

5.2 STUDIES CONDUCTED ABROAD

Dr.Aytekın Isman (2004) has conducted a study entitled “ Attitude of Students towards Internet” where the attitude of the students were studied (affected by the independent variables such as Gender, Education level of their mothers, Education level of their fathers, Having computer in their homes, Having internet connection in their homes, Having internet education , Position of students) towards internet. And the findings were that internet is great option for them to catch information any time they want. There is a consensus that internet provides huge alternatives with its advantages and there is a tendency to apply the consciousness or willingness of new technological style, because student’s education levels are convenient to apply and use internet otherwise they cannot reach the competitive environment.

Al khafaji.H.*et.al* (2014) in his study on Using online resources: A self learning tool found that more than 80% of the bachelor level students could use online resources better than diploma level students found that Nearly 70% bachelor level female students could utilize the optimum potential of the online resources than the male students.Nearly 56% of the diploma level students could utilize the maximum potential of the online resources compared to male students. Hardly 10% of the students at bachelor level were aware of importance of the referencing of the resource.None of the diploma level students were aware of referencing and plagiarism.

Kurniashih.N.*et al* (2018) in their study on “Internet and learning resources: a case study of the Library and Information Science Students at Universitas Padjadjaran” found that The internet has become the main source of information for most students of the Library and Information Science Program and the Faculty of Communication Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran. However, they still assume that the credibility of printed information sources is stronger than online information sources.

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1 METHOD OF THE STUDY: Descriptive survey method was used in the study.

6.2 POPULATION: The population for the present study comprised of all the Ph.D. research scholars pursuing Ph.D. program the 17 Departments and 7 Centers Studies of Dibrugarh University in the academic sessions 2019-2020,2020-2021,2021-2022 .

6.3 SAMPLE OF THE STUDY: The sample for the present study comprised of all the Ph.D. research scholars who were present in the 17 Departments and 7 Centers of Studies of Dibrugarh University at the time of collection of data. Thus, a sample of 132 Ph.D. research scholars were selected using Incidental sampling technique.

6.4 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: The sampling technique used in the present study was Incidental sampling technique to select Ph.D. research scholars from 17 Departments and 7 Centers of Dibrugarh University.

6.5 TOOL USED IN THE STUDY: In the present study Attitude towards using Web –Based Information Resources Scale developed by Mumtaj and Dr. P.M Naushad Ali (2018) was used.The Attitude towards using web-Based Information resources scale was developed by Mumtaj and Dr. P.M Naushad Ali (2018) to measure attitude towards using web resources in higher educational institutes. The scale covers the dimensions *viz.* Acceptance of web resources, Perceived advantages, User’s satisfaction, Impact of web-based resources on academics and Obstacles during usage of web-based resources. The scale consists of 39 items in total out of which 32 are positive (favorable) and 7 are negative (unfavorable) items. The scale consists of 32 positive items means favorable worded and remaining

7 negative items means unfavorable worded and the response is on the 5 point Likert type scale which are Strongly Agree, Agree, Not Sure, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. The reliability was obtained by calculating AlphaCranach's between domain and total values. Face and content validity of the scale were tested by giving the scale to 12 experts to evaluate the items, only those items with 75% agreement were retained but in order to formulate definite validity items were selected having the 't' value equal or more than 1.75. The norm set for the scale ranges from 39 to 195. The minimum score that one can get is 39 and the maximum score that one can score is 195.

6.6 STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED: In the present study, for objective 1, t - test was used to study the difference in attitude between male and female Ph.D. research scholars of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Information resources. For the objective 2, t-test and ANOVA was used to study the difference in attitude of the Arts, Science, Commerce Ph.D research scholars of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Information resources.

7. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

7.1 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE PH.D. RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS USING WEB-BASED INFORMATION RESOURCES:

In order to find the difference in the attitude of the Male and Female Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University towards using Web – Based Information resources, the following hypothesis was formulated in null form.

Hypothesis: *There is no significant difference between male and female Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web- Based Information resources.*

To test the hypothesis t-test was used. The table 1 shows the detail analysis of variance of attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources of male and female Ph.D Research Scholars.

Table 1

Significance of Difference between Means of Male and Female Ph.D. Research Scholars in their Attitude towards using Web-Based Information Resources

Category	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std.Error Mean	t- value	Significance
Male	55	148.44	10.859	1.464	0.391	Not Significant at 0.05 level
Female	77	147.66	11.437	1.303		

Regarding the significance of difference between Male and Female Ph.D. Research Scholars with reference to their attitude towards using Web- Based Information resources, the calculated t value was **0.391** which is not significant at 0.05 level of significance because it is less than the tabulated value **1.98**. Hence, the null hypothesis "***There is no significant difference between Male and Female Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web- Based Information resources.***" may be accepted.

Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no significant difference between Male and Female Ph.D Research Scholars in their attitude towards using Web- Based Information resources.

7.2 DIFFERENCE IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE PH.D. RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY TOWARDS USING WEB – BASED INFORMATION RESOURCES

In order to find the difference in the attitude of the Arts, Science and Commerce Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University towards using Web – Based Information resources, the following hypothesis was formulated in null form.

Hypothesis- *There is no significant difference among the Arts, Science and Commerce Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources.*

To test the hypothesis ANOVA was used. The table 2 shows the detail Analysis of Variance of Attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources of Arts, Science and Commerce Ph.D. Research Scholars.

Table 2
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares(SS)	Mean square(Variance)	Degree of Freedom (df)	F ratio	Significance
Among the group	1631.766	815.883	2	7.162	Significant at 0.001 level
Within the group	14696.204	113.924	129		

Regarding the significance of difference among the Arts, Science and Commerce Ph.D. Research Scholars with reference to their attitude towards using Web- Based Information resources the calculated value of F was **(7.162)** which is significant at 0.05 level of significance as it is greater than the tabulated value **(3.06)**. Hence, the null hypothesis ***“There is no significant difference among the Arts, Science and Commerce Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Resources”*** may be rejected.

Therefore, it can be interpreted that there is a significant difference among Arts, Commerce and Science Ph.D. Research Scholars in their attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources.

As the result of ANOVA is significant hence to know the significance of difference of means of two groups in their attitude towards using web-based information resources ‘t’ value was calculated which is shown in Table 3

Table 3

Significance of Difference between Means of Arts- Science Research Scholars in their Attitude towards using Web-Based Information Resources

Categories	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error	df	t-value	Significance
Arts	33	142.66	11.92	2.075	118	2.85	Significant at 0.05 level
Science	87	149.023	10.494	1.125			

It is evident from the findings that the t-value **2.85** obtained from the scores of Arts and Science Stream Ph.D Research Scholars is significant at 0.05 level as the calculated value is greater than the tabulated value **(1.98)**. Hence there is a significant difference between Ph.D. Research Scholars of Arts and Science Stream of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Information resources. The mean score **149.023** obtained by the Science Stream Ph.D Research Scholars is greater than the mean score **142.66** obtained by the Arts Stream Ph.D Research Scholars.

Table 4

Significance of Difference between Means of Arts – Commerce Research Scholars in their Attitude towards using Web-Based Information Resources

Categories	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error	df	t-value	Significance
Arts	33	142.66	11.92	2.075	43	3.341	Significant at 0.05 level
Commerce	12	155.083	7.833	2.261			

Again, the t-value **3.341** obtained from the scores of Arts and Commerce Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars is significant at 0.05 level as the calculated value is greater than the tabulated value **(2.02)**. Hence, there is a significant difference between Ph.D. Research Scholars of Arts and Commerce Stream of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Information resources. The mean score **155.083** obtained by the Commerce Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars is greater than the mean score **142.66** obtained by the Arts stream Ph.D. Research Scholars.

Table 5

Significance of Difference between Means of Science – Commerce Research Scholars in their Attitude towards using Web-Based Information Resources

Categories	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error	df	t-value	Significance
Science	87	149.023	10.494	1.125	97	1.92	Not significant at 0.05 level
Commerce	12	155.083	7.833	2.261			

The t-value **1.92** obtained from the scores of Science and Commerce Stream Ph.D Research Scholars is not significant at 0.05 level as the calculated value is less than the tabulated value **(1.98)**. Hence, there is no significant difference between

Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Information resources as far as Science and Commerce Stream is concerned.

Thus, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference in the attitude of the Arts and Science Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources. Also, there is a significant difference in the attitude of the Arts and Commerce Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources. But on the other hand, there is no significant difference in the attitude of the Science and Commerce Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources.

8. MAJOR FINDINGS

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1.It was found that there is significance of difference between Male and Female Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University with reference to their attitude towards using Web- Based Information resources.
- 2.There is a significant difference among Arts, Commerce and Science Ph.D. Research Scholars in their attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources.
3. There is a significant difference between Ph.D. Research Scholars of Arts and Science Stream of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Information resources.
4. There is a significant difference between Ph.D. Research Scholars of Arts and Commerce Stream of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Information resources.
5. There is no significant difference between Ph.D. Research Scholars of science and Commerce Stream of Dibrugarh University towards using Web-Based Information resources.

9. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- This study may help the concerned authority to have an idea on the research scholar's mindset and take initiatives accordingly in order to provide more conducive research environment.
- Also, other institutions can conduct similar study on different demographic variables.

10. CONCLUSION

Thus, web-based information resources are the helping hands for the students, teachers and scholars in every possible way as it provides millions of information. The web –based information resources are making the learning and research more efficient and effective. It is also helping the research ecosystem to flourish. From this study, it is revealed that there is no significant difference between the Male and Female Ph.D. Research Scholars of Dibrugarh University in their attitude towards using Web-Based Information resources. But among the arts , science and commerce stream research scholars it can be found that there is a significant difference in the attitude of the Arts and Science Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources. Also, there is a significant difference in the attitude of the Arts and Commerce Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources. But on the other hand, there is no significant difference in the attitude of the Science and Commerce Stream Ph.D. Research Scholars towards using Web –Based Information Resources.

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