

## Information Literacy Skills among the Masters' Students of Social Sciences Departments of Mizoram University and Tezpur University: A Comparative Study

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### ABSTRACT

This paper highlights the comparison of information literacy skills among the master's students of social sciences departments of Mizoram University (MZU) and Tezpur University (TZU). The primary data collected by using survey method and a structured 595 questionnaires were distributed among the respondents in which 522 (87.73 %) of questionnaires were received. The majority of the respondents were female in both the universities in compared to male respondents. Mizoram University students have more awareness of using library services in comparison to Tezpur University respondents. It has been also found that there is no significant difference in the information literacy skills of the students of both the Universities. Mizoram University students preferred 'author-wise' i.e. (59.32 %) search while Tezpur University students preferred 'title-wise' i.e. (39.38 %) search technique for searching the information. It has been also found that a maximum respondents of both universities i.e. (MZU, 55.97 %) and (TZU, 54.75 %) preferred the simple keyword search technique to search the electronic information. The maximum students of both universities were preferred print media for fulfil their needed information. In both of the Universities' respondents were aware with fair use of information and plagiarism with 79.09 per cent of students at MZU and 84.5 per cent of students at TZU. The maximum 39.16 per cent of students were mostly given the references at MZU while in TZU, a large number 57.53 per cent of students were always giving references when they reproduce other work or ideas. Based on a two-sample t-test, as  $p < 0.05$ , it was found that no significant difference in the information literacy skills of the students of both the Universities. After testing with Scheffe's test, it has been shown that the mean of the satisfaction level of respondents was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) as the absolute value of the calculated t is smaller than the critical value ( $0.0737 < 2.201$ ), which shows that there is no significant difference in the satisfaction level of students of both the Universities towards their library orientation program on the use of library resources and services.

**Keywords:** Information literacy; Mizoram university; Tezpur university; Social sciences

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the present day world, information leaves in different configurations, from different sources. As such, it becomes essential for students to be information proficient keeping in mind the end goal to stay capable of the things like when, why and how to use different apparatuses in the acquisition of information appropriately. It isn't conceivable to wind up information literate overnight. Henceforth, by adopting certain writing and speaking behaviour, one can enhance one's capacity and skill in the subjects of his interest. The user's quest for apropos information can be fulfilled by the method for certain information getting skills and capacities and the possession of such abilities is known as information literacy. According to (Paul Zurkowski)<sup>1</sup>, Information Literacy is "People trained in the application of information resources to their work can be called information literates. They have learned techniques and skills for utilizing the wide range of information tools as well

as primary sources in moulding information - solution to their problems."

Information literacy education has gained more significance in higher education institutions worldwide over the last 10 years. It engages people groups in all kinds of different backgrounds to look for, assess, utilise and make information successfully to accomplish their own, social, word related and instructive objectives. Through library orientation, user training and bibliographic direction, university libraries have for quite some time been engaged with preparing their users how to utilise the library, how to get to information and instructing the different bibliographic apparatuses. Changes in instructing and learning styles, the students are confronting issues in finding the most validated, dependable and legitimate information sources for their examinations which required them to create information literacy abilities and progress toward becoming information literates. According to (Lenox & Walker)<sup>2</sup>, "Information Literacy is the realisation that several conditions must be simultaneously present. First, someone must desire to know, use analytic skills to formulate questions,

identify research methodologies, and utilise critical skills to evaluate experimental and experiential results. Second. The person must possess the skills to search for answers to those questions in increasingly diverse and complex ways. Third, once a person has identified what is sought, be able to access it." As activators of learning centres, university libraries are expected to assume an exceptionally critical part to make their users information literates by successfully directing information literacy programs.

## 2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is designed to compare the information literacy skills among the social science P.G Students of Mizoram University and Tezpur University. The Tezpur University is a leading university in North East and ranked with the 39<sup>th</sup> position while Mizoram University ranked 67<sup>th</sup> position in NIRF ranking, 2020. The scope is further limited to the six common social science departments (i.e. Education, Sociology, Social Work, Commerce, Mass Communication and Management) from both the Universities, selected based on the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) list.

## 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Shukla and Verma<sup>3</sup> carried out a study on the assessment of information literacy skills among pg students of social sciences of Mizoram University and Tezpur University. A survey method was adopted for data collection and a total of 360 questionnaires were distributed in which 92.22 per cent of questionnaires have been received by the respondents. The maximum respondents from both universities were below 24-year group; open access or open-source resources were used to fulfil their information need; a large number of students using Journal as a print resource while in electronic resources, respondents were using e-book; the maximum students have a good accessing, searching, evaluating and using of information skills while they also needed the training to use of e-resources.

Moghaddam and Fard<sup>4</sup> the study evaluated that the information literacy of post-graduation students of humanities in distance education in the Payame Noor University of Mashhad in Iran while using a questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The author found that the significant difference between the female students' information literacy with average score ( $t = -10.45$ ,  $df = 159$ ,  $p < 0.0005$ ), the male students' information literacy with average score ( $t = 4.71$ ,  $df = 27$ ,  $p < 0.0005$ ), and all students' information literacy with average score ( $t = -11.42$ ,  $df = 187$ ,  $p < 0.0005$ ), furthermore average score (26) is more than students' score, although the information literacy level in female and male students had no significant difference ( $t = -0.520$ ,  $df = 186$ ,  $p = 0.604$ ).

Padme and Dhande<sup>5</sup> the study examined that information literacy and computer skills among PG, M.Phil and research scholar from various department in Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, using a questionnaire for data collection. The authors found that majority of the student needed the information literacy and computer literacy program to enhance their computer knowledge, searching knowledge,

whereas, only 8.11 per cent of students are not using the computer, and 5.13 per cent of users are not using the internet.

Singh and Joshi<sup>6</sup> conducted a study on information literacy competency of postgraduate students at Haryana Agricultural University and Impact of Instruction Initiatives during the period of the study analysed that the IL skills of PG Students, effect of the instructional activities on the information literacy competency of the students. A total number of 124 questionnaires were distributed to the students at different places within the CCSHAU campus. Out of all 79 were found reasonable for this study covering MSc level students, 63.7 per cent response rate. And found that satisfactory level of Information Literacy competency of PG Students was much higher ( $M = 53.7$ ;  $SD = 3.3$ ; and  $SE = 0.5$ ) than the un-satisfactory ( $M = 35.4$ ;  $SD = 3.8$ ; and  $SE = 0.6$ ) with 18.3 marks a mean difference. The ILC of students was discovered satisfactory and significant differences were additionally found between the competency of the first and the second year students along with the effect of different user training programs at this college.

Thakur<sup>7</sup> examined the digital literacy skills among the postgraduate students of the school of social science at the University of Jammu. The data was collected from a total of 264 respondents using the random sampling technique. Simple percentage, mean, and standard deviation methods were adopted for the analysis and examination of the collected data. Most of the respondents were female i.e. (63.3 %) while the remaining (36.7 %) of respondents were male. The study shows that the respondents opined themselves very poorly using different digital literacy skills. Above (70 %) of the respondents know the different skills such as using search commands to locate files and recording and edit digital videos. The respondents were able to report the problems they found while dealing with digital information and most of them felt that lack of training was the major barrier in their process of learning in the digital world.

Krishnamurthy and Shettappanavar<sup>8</sup> conducted a survey-based study over digital literacy among female postgraduate students of Karnatak University. A properly framed questionnaires were distributed among the 80 respondents, out of which 77 questionnaires were received back with a response rate of (96.25 %) which were further properly tabulated and analysed. Data from the study reveals that e-books were the most preferred document by the respondents i.e. (96.10 %). The study revealed that students were mostly aware by Google scholar (68.83 %) and least aware by SciSpace (3.89 %). A large number (83.11 %) of respondents were using the simple keyword searching technique to obtain desired results. However, a large number (55.84 %) of respondents were aware of the concept of plagiarism.

Al-Issa<sup>9</sup> the study explored the concept of information literacy and its standards among graduate students in government and private university in Kuwait while using an interview method for data collection. The author found that the majority of the student does not understand the concept of information literacy, information literacy instrument, and information literacy skills, and also need to improve the level of understanding how to retrieve the information.

**Table 1. Data collection sample**

Departments	Mizoram university		Tezpur university		Total questionnaire	
	Questionnaire				Distributed (%)	Received (%)
	Distributed (%)	Received (%)	Distributed (%)	Received (%)		
Education (EDU.)	60 (20)	52 (17.33)	60 (20.34)	56 (18.98)	120 (20.17)	108 (18.15)
Sociology (SOC.)	50 (16.67)	49 (16.33)	50 (16.95)	48 (16.27)	100 (16.81)	97 (16.30)
Social Work (SW)	30 (10)	27 (9)	25 (8.47)	23 (7.80)	55 (9.24)	50 (8.40)
Commerce (COM.)	50 (16.67)	46 (15.33)	45 (15.25)	42 (14.24)	95 (15.97)	88 (14.79)
Mass Communication (MCO.)	40 (13.33)	36 (12)	45 (15.25)	39 (13.22)	85 (14.28)	75 (12.61)
Management (MAN.)	70 (23.33)	53 (17.67)	70 (23.73)	51 (17.29)	140 (23.53)	104 (17.48)
Total	300 (100)	263 (87.67)	295 (100)	259 (87.80)	595 (100)	522 (87.73)

#### 4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are:

- To examine the awareness and usages of library services by selected PG students
- To analyse the information literacy skills on accessing, searching, evaluating and using the information by respondents
- To compare the information capability skills used in their searching technique
- To find out the ability to access the right format and preferred information media of information sources
- To know the respondents' level of awareness about the fair use of information and plagiarism

#### 5. METHODOLOGY

The aim of the study to analyse the information literacy skills among the PG students of the Social science departments of these two Universities i.e. Mizoram University and Tezpur University. The social science departments are selected based on the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) list available on (Source: <https://www.icssr.org/national-fellowships>)<sup>10</sup>. At present, there are 06 common social science departments in both the universities (i.e. Education, Sociology, Social Work, Commerce, Mass Communication and Management). Thus, all these 06 departments from both University will be only included in this study as a social science department. The primary data was collected through a survey method and using a simple random sampling technique. The sample size calculation, calculated at 99 per cent confidence level and 5 per cent confidence interval, suggests that a minimum sample of 240 represent 375 students of Mizoram University and a minimum sample of 236 to represent 365 students of Tezpur University is required (Ref: <https://surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>)<sup>11</sup>. An attempt was made to draw a sample 25 per cent higher than the minimum requirement, considering the non-response rate up to 25%. Thus, questionnaires were distributed among 300 students of Mizoram University and 295 students of Tezpur University and the response received

from 263 students from MZU (87.67 %) and 259 students from TZU (87.80 %) received.

#### 6. DATA ANALYSIS

##### 6.1 Data Collection Sample

Table 1 shows the questionnaires distributed and received by the PG students of Social Sciences departments and Table 1 also categorically represents the department wise data of questionnaires distributed and received by the respondents from both Universities. A total of 595 questionnaires were distributed to both universities' students in which, a total 120 (20.17%) of questionnaires were distributed among the students of Education Department in both universities in which 108 (18.15 %) of filled questionnaires were received; in Sociology Department, a total 100 (16.81 %) questionnaires were distributed in which 97 (16.30 %) of questionnaires received back; in the Department of Commerce, a total 95 (15.97 %) questionnaires were distributed and received 88 constituting (14.79 %); in the Department of Mass Communication, 85 (14.28 %) questionnaires were distributed in which a total 75 (12.61 %) filled questionnaires were received; while in the Department of Management, 140 (23.53 %) of questionnaires were distributed and 104 constituting (17.48%) of questionnaires received by the respondents from both Universities.

##### 6.2 Gender-wise Distribution of Respondents

The observation of Fig. 1 i.e. gender-wise classification of PG students in Social Sciences departments in both of the Universities i.e. Mizoram University and Tezpur University reveals that out of a total 263 respondents, the maximum 136(51.71 %) of students were female while the rest 127(48.29 %) of students were male in Mizoram University. However, in Tezpur University, out of a total of 259 respondents, a large number 177(68.34 %) of students were female while the rest were male i.e. 82(31.66 %) students. It is also found that the maximum respondents were female in both of the Universities. In Fig. 1 department wise gender classification has been shown.

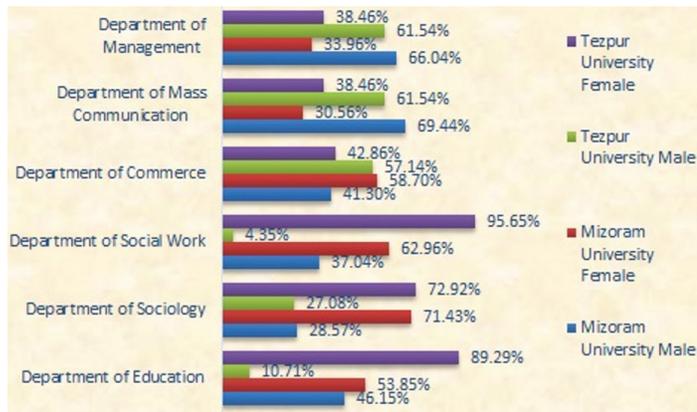


Figure 1. Gender-wise distribution of respondents.

### 6.3 Awareness and usage of Library Services by the Respondents

In awareness and usages of library services by the PG students of the Social Sciences department of Mizoram University and Tezpur University. A maximum of 65.76 per cent of respondents was aware of various library services while the rest 34.24 per cent of students were not aware of it at Mizoram University. However, a large number of 61.47 per cent of students were aware of different library services while the rest 38.53 per cent of students were not aware of it at Tezpur University. Mizoram University students have more awareness of using library services in comparison to Tezpur University respondents.

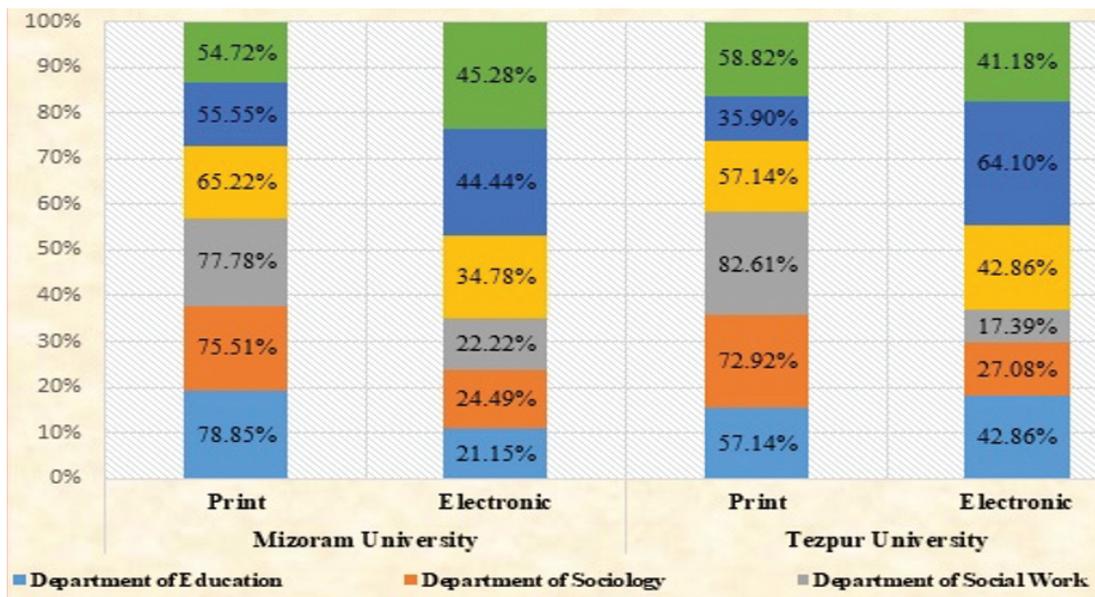


Figure 2. Information media preferred by respondents.

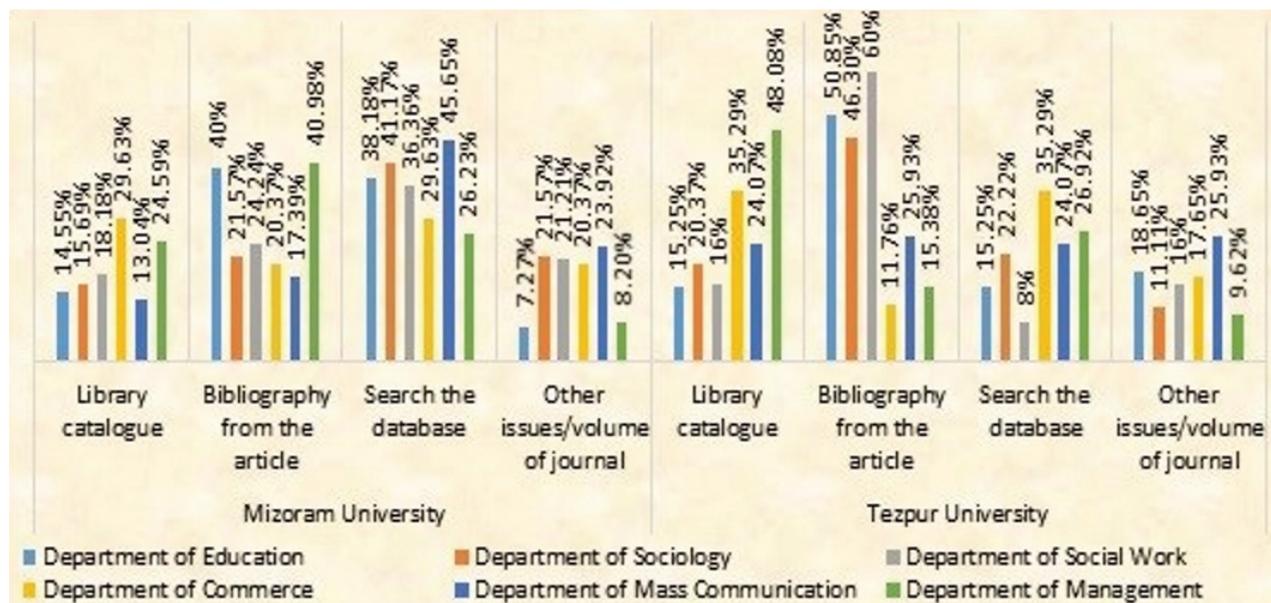


Figure 3. Most efficient source for finding other related articles.

**Table 2. Preference to searching technique**

Univ.	Options	Departments						Total (%)
		EDU. (%)	SOC. (%)	SW (%)	COM. (%)	MCO. (%)	MAN. (%)	
Mizoram University	By Title	13 (25)	15 (30.61)	13 (48.15)	14 (30.43)	12 (33.33)	2 (3.77)	69 (26.24)
	By Author	35 (67.30)	29 (59.18)	9 (33.33)	23 (50)	20 (55.56)	40 (75.47)	156 (59.32)
	By Publisher	2 (3.85)	1 (2.05)	2 (7.41)	5 (10.87)	4 (11.11)	6 (11.33)	20 (7.60)
	By Subject	2 (3.85)	4 (8.16)	3 (11.11)	4 (8.70)	0 (0)	5 (9.43)	18 (6.84)
Total		52 (100)	49 (100)	27 (100)	46 (100)	36 (100)	53 (100)	263 (100)
Tezpur University	By Title	28 (50)	12 (25)	9 (39.13)	18 (42.86)	16 (41.03)	19 (37.25)	102 (39.38)
	By Author	18 (32.14)	16 (33.33)	5 (21.74)	22 (52.38)	9 (23.08)	23 (45.10)	93 (35.91)
	By Publisher	0 (0)	3 (6.25)	6 (26.09)	0 (0)	1 (2.56)	3 (5.88)	13 (5.02)
	By Subject	10 (17.86)	17 (35.42)	3 (13.04)	2 (4.76)	13 (33.33)	6 (11.77)	51 (19.69)
Total		56 (100)	48 (100)	23 (100)	42 (100)	39 (100)	51 (100)	259 (100)

#### 6.4 Information Media Preferred by Respondents

On the observation of Fig. 2, it has been found that the information media preferred by the PG students of the Social Sciences departments in Mizoram University and Tezpur University. Figure 2 categorically represents the department wise data of the respondents from both Universities. Out of a total of 263 respondents, the maximum 178 (67.68 %) of students preferred print media while the rest 85 (32.32 %) of students preferred electronic media in Mizoram University. However, in Tezpur University, out of a total of 259 respondents, a large number of 154 (59.46 %) of students preferred print

media while the rest preferred electronic media i.e. 105 (40.54 %) of students.

#### 6.5 Most Efficient Source for Finding other Related Articles

On the observation of Fig. 3, it has been found that the respondents were consulting various sources for finding the related articles. Figure 3 categorically represents the department wise data of the respondents from both Universities. In Mizoram University, a total of 263 respondents were consulting various sources for finding the related articles, a large number

**Table 3. Preference of searching techniques in the electronic environment**

Univ.	Options	Departments						Total (%)
		EDU. (%)	SOC. (%)	SW (%)	COM. (%)	MCO. (%)	MAN. (%)	
Mizoram University	Simple Keyword	30 (50)	27 (46.55)	18 (43.90)	26 (52)	35 (85.37)	42 (61.76)	178 (55.97)
	Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT)	2 (3.33)	7 (12.07)	0 (0)	2 (4)	2 (4.87)	0 (0)	13 (4.09)
	Truncation	2 (3.33)	2 (3.45)	0 (0)	6 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (3.14)
	Field Search (Title, Author, URL, etc.)	26 (43.34)	22 (37.93)	23 (56.10)	16 (32)	4 (9.76)	26 (38.24)	117 (36.79)
Tezpur University	Simple Keyword	27 (42.86)	29 (49.15)	10 (38.46)	35 (77.78)	30 (57.69)	36 (60)	167 (54.75)
	Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT)	4 (6.35)	2 (3.39)	1 (3.85)	0 (0)	4 (7.69)	4 (6.67)	15 (4.92)
	Truncation	2 (3.17)	2 (3.39)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (7.69)	0 (0)	8 (2.62)
	Field Search (Title, Author, URL, etc.)	30 (47.62)	26 (44.07)	15 (57.69)	10 (22.22)	14 (26.93)	20 (33.33)	115 (37.70)

(Frequency exceeded because respondents choose more than one options).

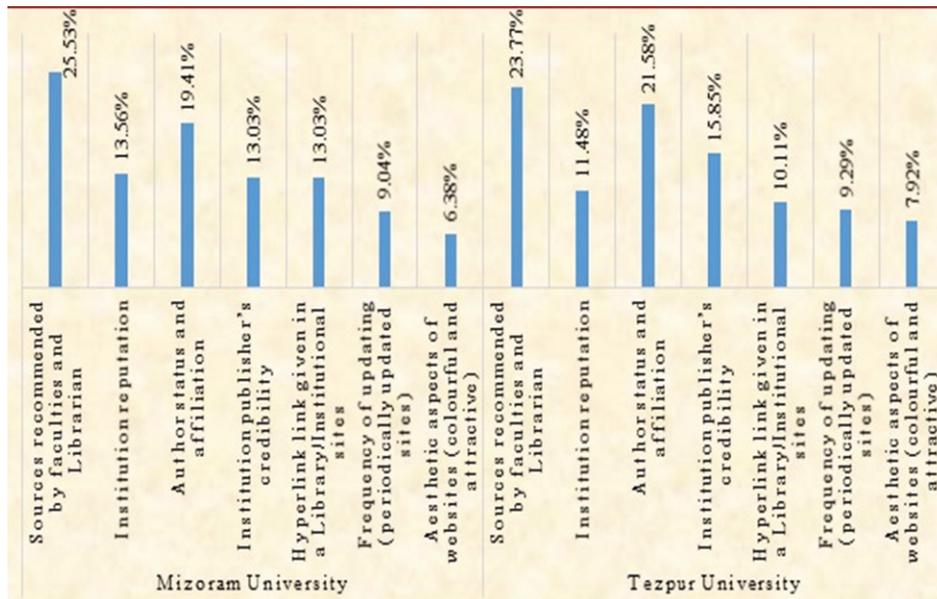


Figure 4. Reliability and the authenticity of web information sources.

35.67 per cent of students searched the database for finding other related articles, followed by 28.33 per cent, 19.67 per cent and 16.33 per cent of students were consulting the bibliography from the article, library catalogue and other issues/volumes of journal respectively by the respondents of the Mizoram University. However out of the total 259 respondents were consulting different types of sources for finding the related articles, the maximum of 33.22 per cent of students consulted the bibliography from the article for finding other related articles followed by 27.12 per cent, 23.05 per cent and 16.61 per cent of students were consulting the library catalogue, search the database and consult the other issues/volumes of journal respectively by the students of the Tezpur University.

6.6 Preference to Searching Technique

On the observation of Table 2, it has been depicted the preference of search technique to find out “Dr. B.R. Ambedkar” documents in their library by the PG students of Mizoram University and Tezpur University, Table 2 categorically represents the department wise data of the respondents from both Universities and it exposes that out of total 263 respondents from Mizoram University, the highest 156 (59.32 %) of students preferred author wise searching technique, followed by 69 (26.24 %) of students preferred title wise search while 20 (7.60 %) of students preferred publisher wise search and remaining 18 (6.84 %) of students preferred subject wise search. However in Tezpur University, out of a total of 259 respondents, a large number 102 (39.38 %) of respondents preferred title wise search, followed by 93 (35.91 %) of students who prefer author wise searching technique, 51 (19.69 %) of students preferred subject wise searching technique while 13 (5.02 %) of students preferred publisher wise searching technique to find out “Dr. B.R. Ambedkar” documents.

6.7 Preference of Searching Techniques in the Electronic Environment

On the observation of Table 3, it shows that the PG

students were using various search techniques to search the electronic information; Table 3 categorically represents the department wise data of the respondents from both Universities. in Mizoram University, a total of 263 respondents were using different types of search techniques to search the electronic information, a large number 55.97 per cent of respondents preferred the simple keyword search technique to search the electronic information, followed by 36.79 per cent, 4.09 per cent and 3.14 per cent of students preferred the field search (Title, Author, URL, etc.), Boolean operators and truncation search techniques respectively in the Mizoram University. However, out of the total 259 respondents were using various search techniques to search for electronic information, the maximum

54.75 per cent of respondents preferred the simple keyword search technique to search the electronic information, followed by 37.70 per cent, 4.92 per cent and 2.62 per cent of students preferred the field search (Title, Author, URL, etc.), Boolean operators and truncation search techniques respectively in the Tezpur University.

6.8 Reliability and the Authenticity of Web Information Sources

On the observation of Fig. 4, it illustrates the various ways to evaluate the reliability and the authenticity of web information by the PG students and the Fig. 4 categorically represents the department wise data of the respondents from both Universities. In Mizoram University, a total of 263 respondents were using various ways to evaluate the reliability and the authenticity of web information in which a large number 25.53 per cent of students preferred to check sources recommended by faculties and librarian to evaluate the reliability and the authenticity of web information, followed by 19.41 per cent and 13.56 per cent of students preferred to check author status and affiliation and institution reputation respectively while 13.04 per cent of each student preferred to check institution publisher’s credibility

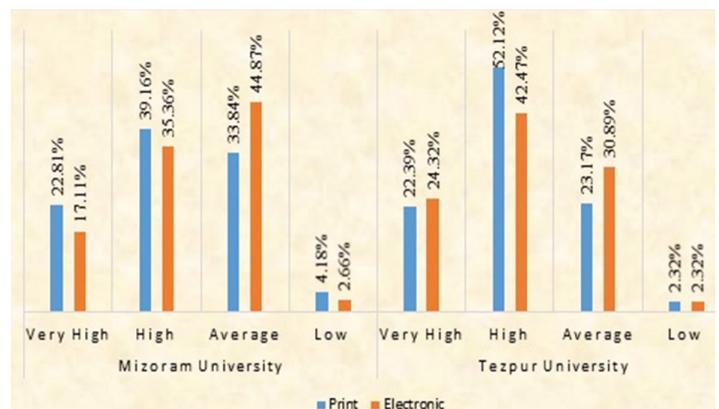


Figure 5. Ability to access right format of information source.

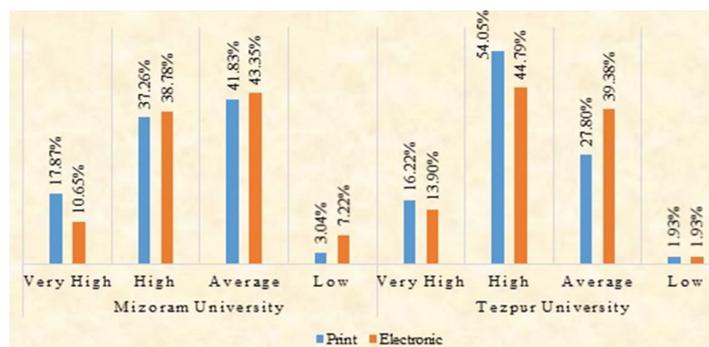


Figure 6. Evaluation of information in print and electronic formats.

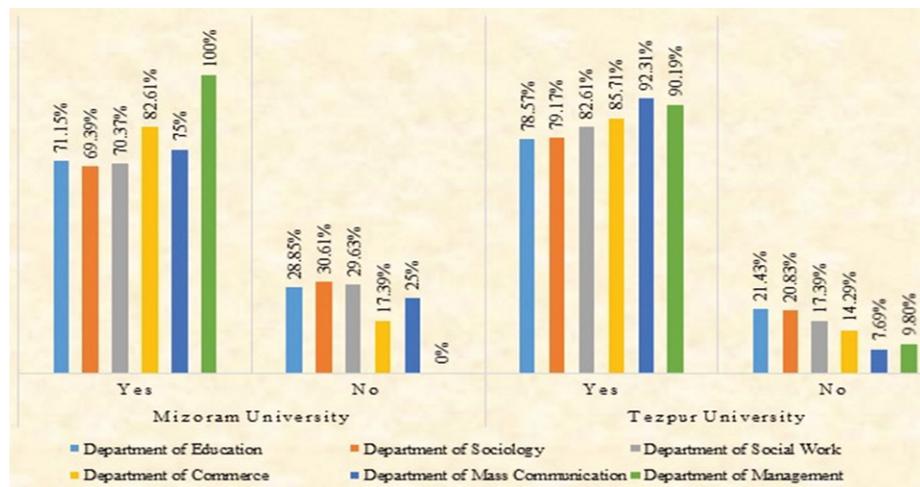


Figure 7. Awareness about the fair use of information and plagiarism.

and hyperlink link in a library/institutional sites while 9.04 per cent and 6.38 per cent of students preferred to check the frequency of updating and aesthetic aspects of websites respectively to evaluate the reliability and the authenticity of web information in the Mizoram University. However, out of the total 259 respondents were using various ways to evaluate the reliability and the authenticity of web information in which the maximum 23.77 per cent of students preferred to check sources recommended by faculties and librarian to evaluate the reliability and the authenticity of web information, followed by 21.58 per cent, 15.85 per cent and 11.48 per cent of respondents preferred to check author status and affiliation, institution publisher’s credibility and institution reputation respectively while 10.11 per cent, 9.29 per cent and 7.92 per cent of students preferred to check hyperlink link given in a library/institutional sites, frequency of updating and aesthetic aspects of websites respectively in the Tezpur University.

### 6.9 Ability to Access Right Format of Information Source

On the observation of Fig. 5, it illustrates that the PG students of the Social Sciences department were rating their ability to access the correct information in print and electronic formats in both of the Universities in which the Mizoram University, it has been found that the maximum 103 (39.16 %) of students have high ability to access the correct

information in the print format while in Tezpur University, a large number 135 (52.12 %) of students have high ability to

Table 4. References given by the respondents when they reproducing others work or ideas

Univ.	Options	Departments						Total (%)
		EDU. (%)	SOC. (%)	SW (%)	COM. (%)	MCO. (%)	MAN. (%)	
Mizoram University	Always	13 (25)	17 (34.69)	14 (51.86)	19 (41.30)	8 (22.22)	13 (24.53)	84 (31.94)
	Mostly	20 (38.45)	20 (40.82)	4 (14.81)	22 (47.83)	14 (38.89)	23 (43.40)	103 (39.16)
	Occasionally	15 (28.85)	10 (20.41)	5 (18.52)	5 (10.87)	9 (25)	12 (22.64)	56 (21.29)
	Rarely	2 (3.85)	2 (4.08)	3 (11.11)	0 (0)	5 (13.89)	5 (9.43)	17 (6.46)
	Never	2 (3.85)	0 (0)	1 (3.70)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (1.14)
Total		52 (100)	49 (100)	27 (100)	46 (100)	36 (100)	53 (100)	263 (100)
Tezpur University	Always	52 (92.86)	25 (52.08)	14 (60.87)	21 (50)	16 (41.03)	21 (41.18)	149 (57.53)
	Mostly	2 (3.57)	11 (22.92)	4 (17.39)	16 (38.10)	19 (48.72)	19 (37.25)	71 (27.41)
	Occasionally	2 (3.57)	11 (22.92)	4 (17.39)	5 (11.90)	4 (10.25)	11 (21.57)	37 (14.29)
	Rarely	0 (0)	1 (2.08)	1 (4.35)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0.77)
	Never	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total		56 (100)	48 (100)	23 (100)	42 (100)	39 (100)	51 (100)	259 (100)

access the correct information in print format. However, in the Mizoram University, the maximum of 118 (44.87 %) of students have average ability to access the correct information in the electronic format while a large number 110 (42.47 %) of students have a high ability to access the correct information in an electronic format recorded by the Tezpur University respondents.

**6.10 Evaluation of Information in Print and Electronic Formats**

On the observation of Fig. 6, it shows the rating of the PG students of the Social Sciences department ability to evaluate the information in print and electronic formats by both of the University respondents. In the Mizoram University, it has been found that a maximum of 110 (41.83 %) of students have average ability to evaluate the information in the print format while in Tezpur University, a large number 140 (54.05 %) of students have a high ability to evaluate the information in print formats. However, in Mizoram University, the maximum 114 (43.35 %) of students have the average ability to evaluate the information in electronic format by the respondents of Mizoram University while a large number 116 (44.79 %) of students

have high ability to evaluate the information in an electronic format recorded by the Tezpur University respondents.

**6.11 Awareness about the Fair Use of Information and Plagiarism**

On the observation of Fig. 7, it reveals the awareness about the fair use of information and plagiarism by the PG students of Mizoram University and Tezpur University in which out of a total of 263 respondents, the maximum 79.09 per cent of students were aware of fair use of information and plagiarism while the rest 20.91 per cent of students were not aware in Mizoram University. However, in Tezpur University, out of

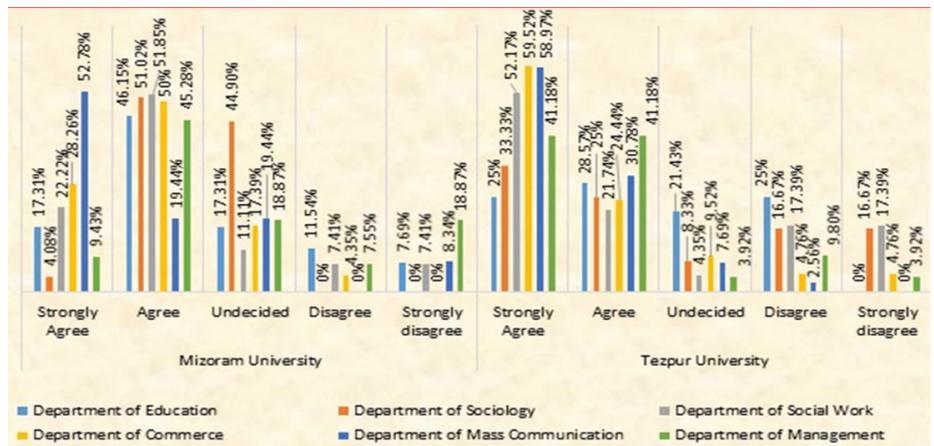


Figure 8. Awareness about plagiarism.

Table 5. Rating their skills on accessing, searching, evaluating and using the information by the respondents of Mizoram University and Tezpur University

Skills/competences	Mizoram University					Total (%)	Mean	Variance	Std. dev.
	5 (%)	4 (%)	3 (%)	3 (%)	1 (%)				
Accessing information	25 (9.51)	56 (21.29)	135 (51.33)	31 (11.79)	16 (6.08)	263 (100)	210.4	34414	185.51
Searching information	31 (11.79)	55 (20.91)	134 (50.95)	29 (11.03)	14 (5.32)	263 (100)			
Evaluating information	23 (8.75)	48 (18.25)	130 (49.43)	42 (15.97)	20 (7.60)	263 (100)			
Using information	34 (12.93)	55 (20.91)	129 (49.05)	30 (11.41)	15 (5.70)	263 (100)			
Tezpur University									
Accessing information	32 (12.36)	60 (23.16)	137 (52.90)	16 (6.17)	14 (5.41)	259 (100)	198.4	43859.3	208.95
Searching information	38 (14.67)	64 (24.71)	126 (48.65)	17 (6.56)	14 (5.41)	259 (100)			
Evaluating information	18 (6.95)	58 (22.39)	140 (54.05)	33 (12.74)	10 (3.87)	259 (100)			
Using information	37 (14.29)	60 (23.16)	136 (52.51)	16 (6.18)	10 (3.86)	259 (100)			

Note: Data collected on 5 points continuous scale, where 5: for Excellent and 1: for Very Poor, respondents were allowed to give the response in decimal value as well.

a total of 259 respondents, a large number 84.56 per cent of students were aware of fair use of information and plagiarism while the rest were not aware of it i.e. 15.44 per cent of students. It is also found that the highest numbers of respondents were aware of the fair use of information and plagiarism in both of the Universities.

**6.12 References given by the Respondents When they Reproducing others Work or Ideas**

On the observation of Table 4, it reveals the references given when they reproduce others works or ideas by the PG students of the Social Sciences department in Mizoram University and Tezpur University. Table 4 categorically represents the department wise data of the respondents from both Universities. Out of a total of 263 respondents, the maximum 39.16 per cent of students were mostly given the references when they reproduce other work or ideas, followed by always, occasionally, rarely and never with 31.94 per cent, 21.29 per cent, 6.46 per cent and 1.14 per cent of students respectively in Mizoram University. However, out of a total of 259 respondents, a large number 57.53 per cent of students were always giving references when they reproduce other work or ideas, followed by mostly, occasionally and rarely with 27.41%, 14.29 per cent and 0.77 per cent of students respectively while not a single student never is given the references when they reproduce the other work or ideas in Tezpur University.

**6.13 Awareness about Plagiarism**

On the observation of Fig. 8, it has been shown that the opinion of the PG students of the Social Sciences department on the statement “plagiarism should be avoided” in Mizoram

University and Tezpur University. Fig. 8 categorically represents the department wise data of the respondents from both Universities. Out of a total of 263 respondents in Mizoram University, the maximum 44.49 per cent of students agreed with the statement “plagiarism should be avoided”, followed by undecided, strongly agree, strongly disagree and disagree with 22.44 per cent, 20.53 per cent, 7.22 per cent and 5.32 per cent of students respectively. However in Tezpur University, out of a total of 259 respondents, a large number 42.85 per cent of students strongly agreed with the statement “plagiarism should be avoided”, followed by agreed, disagree, undecided and strongly disagree with 28.96 per cent, 13.13 per cent, 10.04 per cent and 5.02 per cent of students respectively.

**7. HYPOTHESES TESTING**

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant difference in both of the universities’ respondents in IL skills to accessing, searching, evaluating and use authentic information.

**7.1 Rating their Skills on Accessing, Searching, Evaluating and using the Information by the Respondents of Mizoram University and Tezpur University**

Table 5 reveals that a large number of students of both of the University were rating their accessing information, searching information, evaluating information and using of information skills as 5 points continuous scale, where 5: for Excellent and 1: for Very Poor.

$t = 0.06$  Critical value = 2.3 df = 8

On applying two-sample t-test for comparing mean of Sample from Mizoram University (Mean = 210 ± 185.5) and Tezpur University (Mean = 198.4 ± 208.95) reported IL skills

**Table 6. Evaluation of instructional or training programmes provided by the library**

Univ.	Options	Departments						Total (%)
		EDU. (%)	SOC. (%)	SW (%)	COM. (%)	MCO. (%)	MAN. (%)	
Mizoram University	5	7 (13.46)	13 (26.53)	5 (18.52)	3 (6.52)	7 (19.44)	11 (20.75)	46 (17.49)
	4	34 (65.38)	23 (46.94)	12 (44.44)	29 (63.04)	19 (52.78)	35 (66.04)	152 (57.79)
	3	7 (13.46)	13 (26.53)	10 (37.04)	12 (26.09)	7 (19.44)	3 (5.66)	52 (19.77)
	2	2 (3.85)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (8.33)	4 (7.55)	9 (3.42)
	1	2 (3.85)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (4.35)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (1.52)
Total		52 (100)	49 (100)	27 (100)	46 (100)	36 (100)	53 (100)	263 (100)
Tezpur University	5	4 (7.14)	0 (0)	2 (8.70)	9 (21.43)	5 (12.82)	7 (13.73)	27 (10.42)
	4	16 (28.57)	17 (35.42)	7 (30.43)	15 (35.71)	15 (38.46)	12 (23.53)	82 (31.67)
	3	28 (50)	17 (35.42)	9 (39.13)	9 (21.43)	17 (43.59)	16 (31.37)	96 (37.07)
	2	4 (7.14)	4 (8.33)	1 (4.35)	9 (21.43)	0 (0)	9 (17.65)	27 (10.42)
	1	4 (7.14)	10 (20.83)	4 (17.39)	0 (0)	2 (5.13)	7 (13.73)	27 (10.42)
Total		56 (100)	48 (100)	23 (100)	42 (100)	39 (100)	51 (100)	259 (100)

Note: Data collected on 5 points continuous scale, where 5: for Strongly Satisfied and 1: for Strongly Dissatisfied, respondents were allowed to give the response in decimal value as well.

in retrieve, examine, evaluate and use authentic information at a five-point continuous scale, i.e. (Rating 5: for Excellent and 1: for Very Poor ‘Respondents were allowed to give their response in decimal values as well) and found that population under study as a whole,  $t(0.06) df = 8, p = .00$  and by this conventional criteria, this difference is considered to be extremely statistically insignificant as the calculated  $t$  value is smaller than the critical value ( $0.096 < 2.306$ ), so the means are not significantly different.

In other words, the difference between the average of the Mizoram and Tezpur populations is not big enough to be statistically significant. Based on a two-sample  $t$ -test, as  $p < 0.05$ , the null hypothesis is rejected and found no significant difference in the information literacy skills of the students of both the Universities. Hence,  $H_{01}$  is rejected.

$H_{02}$ : There is no significant difference in the satisfaction level of students of both the Universities towards their library orientation program on the use of library resources and services.

### 7.2 Evaluation of Instructional or Training Programmes Provided by the Library

Table 6 reveals the satisfaction with the programme/ instruction or training provided by the library in the use of library resources and services by the PG students of Mizoram University and Tezpur University. Table 6 categorically represents the department wise data of the respondents from both Universities. It has been found that out of a total of 263 respondents of Mizoram University, the maximum 57.79 per cent of students were given 4 response, followed by 19.77 per cent of students were given 3 response and 17.49 per cent of students were 5 response while 3.42 per cent of students with 2 response and 1.52 per cent of students were given 1 response. However, out of a total of 259 respondents in Tezpur University, a large number 37.07 per cent of students were

given 3 response, followed by 31.67 per cent of students were given 4 response and 10.42 per cent of each student were given 5, 2 and 1 response in Tezpur University.

For testing the hypothesis 2, Table 6 was modified into Table 7.

The satisfaction level of students of both the Universities towards their library orientation program on the use of library resources and services is shown in the table. The results of the table indicate that the level of satisfaction of students was 5 (Strongly Satisfied), 4, 3, 2, and 1 (Strongly Dissatisfied) with both University, the results suggested a statistically insignificant difference among the average of students' level of satisfaction ( $P < 0.05$ ). To determine the difference among satisfaction levels of students concerning their library orientation program, hence employed a two-sample  $t$ -test, given the unequal number of students in the respective universities ( $t=0.073$ ;  $df=11$   $p < .05$ ). The results of Scheffe's test showed that the means of the satisfaction level of respondents was significantly different ( $P < .05$ ) as the absolute value of the calculated  $t$  is smaller than the critical value ( $0.0737 < 2.201$ ). Thus, there is no significant difference in the satisfaction level of students of both the Universities towards their library orientation program on the use of library resources and services. hence, the study failed to reject  $H_{02}$ .

### 8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The rapid changes in information and communication technologies brought an information explosion and in the present era, it is very difficult to choose the right information's, human need the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the required information. A total of 87.73 per cent of filled questionnaires were received from the respondents in both of the universities respondents (87.67 per cent of MZU and 87.80 per cent of TZU) and the maximum respondents were female in both universities. Mizoram University students have more awareness of using library services in comparison to Tezpur University respondents. In both universities, It was found that the maximum respondents preferred the print media, followed by electronic media while a large number of respondents i.e. 35.67 per cent of respondents from Mizoram University search the database for finding other related articles, however 33.22 per cent of respondents were consulting bibliography from the article for finding other related articles from Tezpur University. It is also found that the maximum respondents of Mizoram University were search authors wise while a large number of students in Tezpur University were title wise search to find out "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar" related documents in their library. A highest 55.97 per cent of respondents from MZU were preferred simple keyword search while 54.75 per cent of students from Tezpur University preferred the simple keyword search technique to search the electronic information. The majority of respondents i.e. 25.53 per cent from Mizoram University and 23.77 per cent from Tezpur University preferred to check sources recommended by faculties and Librarians to evaluate the reliability and the authenticity of web information. The maximum respondents have high ability to access the correct information in print format in both universities however, in electronic format Mizoram University respondents have the

**Table 7. Evaluation of instructional or training programmes provided by the library**

Satisfaction level	Mizoram University	Tezpur University	
5	46 (17.49%)	27 (10.42%)	
4	152 (57.79%)	82 (31.67%)	
3	52 (19.77%)	96 (37.07%)	$t = -0.0737$
2	9 (3.42%)	27 (10.42%)	d.o.f= 11
1	4 (1.52%)	27 (10.42%)	critical
Total	263 (100%)	259 (100%)	value=2.201
Mean	82.5714	86.3333	
Variance	8694.61	8097.47	
Stand. Dev.	93.25	89.99	
N	7	6	

Note: Data collected on 5 points continuous scale, where 5: for Strongly Satisfied and 1: for Strongly Dissatisfied, respondents were allowed to give the response in decimal value as well.

average ability while Tezpur University respondents have high ability to access the correct information in electronic format however the ability to evaluate the information in print and electronic format, a large number of Mizoram University respondents have the average ability while Tezpur University respondents have the high ability. the highest numbers of respondents were aware of the fair use of information and plagiarism in both of the Universities. It is also found that the maximum numbers of respondents i.e. 39.16 per cent were mostly giving references when they reproduce other work or ideas in the Mizoram University while 57.53 per cent of respondents always given reference in the Tezpur University and the maximum number of students i.e. 44.49 per cent in the Mizoram University agreed with the statement “plagiarism should be avoided” while 42.85 per cent of students of Tezpur University strongly agree with the statement. IL skills in retrieve, examine, evaluate and use authentic information at a five-point continuous scale and found that there is no significant difference in the information literacy skills of the respondents of both of the Universities. A maximum 57.79 per cent of MZU (4 point out of 5) and 37.07 per cent (3 point out of 5) of students at TZU were satisfied with the programme/ instruction or training provided by the library in the use of library resources and services.

## 9. SUGGESTIONS

The suggestions based on the primary data, the following suggestions are given to improve the information literacy skills among the PG students of both the Universities i.e. Mizoram University and Tezpur University.

- Both the universities’ PG students need to be literate about offered library services for maximum utilisation of library resources
- Both the universities should conduct a regular literacy awareness programme to enhance the search techniques skill of their users
- The PG students of both the universities need to improve their skill and ability about the fair use of information and plagiarism which is a burning issue in present digital era.

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