

## INFORMATION LITERACY AND STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN A LIFELONG LEARNING CONTEXT

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### Abstract

The aim of this research is to identify how well the information literacy has an effect on the student's life, especially, for the long term period of the learning process. This paper proposes an e-learning program as the best program to be implemented to enhance their knowledge skills. This paper also discusses issues faced in the 21st century that may cause the slow development of information literacy skills among students. The relationships between lifelong learning and information literacy and the contribution of both concepts in improving student's performance were also highlighted.

**Keywords:** Teaching and learning, e-learning, information literacy, library, teacher, student performance

### INTRODUCTION

The term information has become an important source for economies and it is the basis component of education as well. Besides, information also becomes part of technology and society changes nowadays that effect on the challenges that cover all human beings, including students, workers, and community of all ages. Nowadays, Information technologies (IT) are in our surroundings and all the people around the world can access it everywhere and anytime they can make it available for them regardless all the ages. Information technologies (IT) such of computers, smartpone, hardware and software, social networking, the internet and so on as long as it using technology facilities to connect it. Due to a burst of information that readily available on the Internet, the needs of being information literacy's people is vital skills that each and every of us needs to have especially in student's life.

For many years, information literacy has become a famous topic that was argued within higher education which they made available for information literacy as part of curriculum subject that became vital skills for undergraduate students. The term of 'Information Literacy' is referred to as a set of skills that was required by each and every of the individual which they need to have and learn every day in order to survive in their life especially through the rapid growth of development of technologies nowadays. Basically, the primary knowledge of being literacy is they able to find, retrieve and evaluate information before they can use that kind of information which is related to their research, their minds and so on.

Apart from that, the term 'Information Literacy' always has connection with lifelong learning because we learned through our daily life at school, from neighborhoods, the community as well as a nation not even for yesterday, today, tomorrow knowledge but we were learning for rest of our life as our information knowledge management. Before the 21st century, the ways in teaching and learning process is likely more on traditional way in term of using a chalkboard, heavy textbooks, and their activities are more in classroom whereby the students also need face to face with teachers who have the mentality and physically tough and too discipline towards their students. So, in the context of this situation, there are many reasons for why students before this are having a lack of literacy skills compared with new students nowadays which they been pampered too much on using technology as their learning materials and it seems like they addicted with it so much.

## **ISSUES**

In this paper, several issues are discussed regarding on how well Information literacy has an effect on student performance for lifelong learning in their educational purposes. Based on my observation from the research articles, there is some limitations may occur during teaching and learning process of having literacy skills toward student which is:

- Difference of concepts on understanding of Information Literacy
- The uncertainty of users in getting literacy skills
- Possible relationship between information literacy skills and lifelong learning

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this study will be to evaluate how well the information literacy has an effect on student's performance and lifelong learning. There some element of sub-objectives was listed:

- To identify the way information literacy skills is implemented.
- To assess student's knowledge of information literacy.
- To determine the roles of library to educate information literacy among the students.
- To propose new educational method of teaching (e-Learning program) for information literacy.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

These research questions have been considered in order to guide this study:

- What are the way information literacy skills is implemented?
- What are the levels of student's knowledge of information literacy?
- How does the library educate information literacy among the students?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW AND PROPOSED FRAMEWORK**

In the past several years have witnessed a daily explosion of In the past several years have witnessed a daily explosion of information resources and the consequent challenge of using these resources effectively and efficiently by the people around the world which they tend to depend on of using technologies to generate their life studied by Jorosi and Isaac (2008). From this situation, this effectively resulted in the rapid growing on using this method where the information literacy skills became the most important part in the educational area.

According to American Library Association (1989), Information literacy skills can refer to a set of abilities requiring individuals to become aware of when information is needed to have the ability to discover, evaluate and used it effectively based on the types of information searching needed. Information literacy skills have a value nowadays which is relevant for 21st century students to enable them in knowing and used it with effectively rather than previous student or user that lack of this skills which is limit them to gain the benefit and knowledge, and it seems to be fact that information literacy helps much on pertaining student's performance or achievement today.

ICT development process gives more opportunities in the education sector which it helps the student to explore and formulate new ways to gain knowledge such as e-learning which well-known method that been used and accepting by the student to increase their performance through theoretical and practical as well. According to Bruce (2008), she said that "information literacy as facilitators for educational transformation or in simple word, it is just necessity method for lifelong learning. Apart from that, Information literacy is so important because there has been modification part which is on teacher-centred learning to student-centred learning based on (Lwhehabura, 1999). Thus, in developing the independent learners need to be done in all stage of education from primary to tertiary education.

Nowadays, with more students, most prefer on taking online courses rather use the face-to-face method in teaching and learning, and with a variety of information that becoming available in online, teaching the student to be information literate becomes a more challenging issue that we need to face it practically (Yu, Abrizah & Abdullah Sani, 2016; Saidatul, 2014). In the meantime, with more information that readily available on the internet, the need for the student to be alert and learn how to find the right information and evaluate reliable sources after finding the related on searching topic takes on a greater importance. In order to make it became real in the process of teaching information literacy, the instructor or librarian as well as library hoping that by exposing students to learning concepts of information retrieval into a variety of resources types, and also by having them to practice the skills of searching the information very well, it will improve their knowledge , having greater confidence and positive attitude in themselves to face the world challenges due to growth of technology expands that more advance from time to time.

Figure 1 is a proposed theoretical framework that will be used to guide this research. Based on the previous study, the proposed theoretical framework illustrates a dependent variable (students' performance for lifelong learning); and three independent

variables (the way information literacy skills is implemented; levels of students' knowledge of information literacy; and library roles of teaching and learning). The framework will be used to answer the main research question, that is, how well the information literacy was affected on pertaining student's performance of lifelong learning?

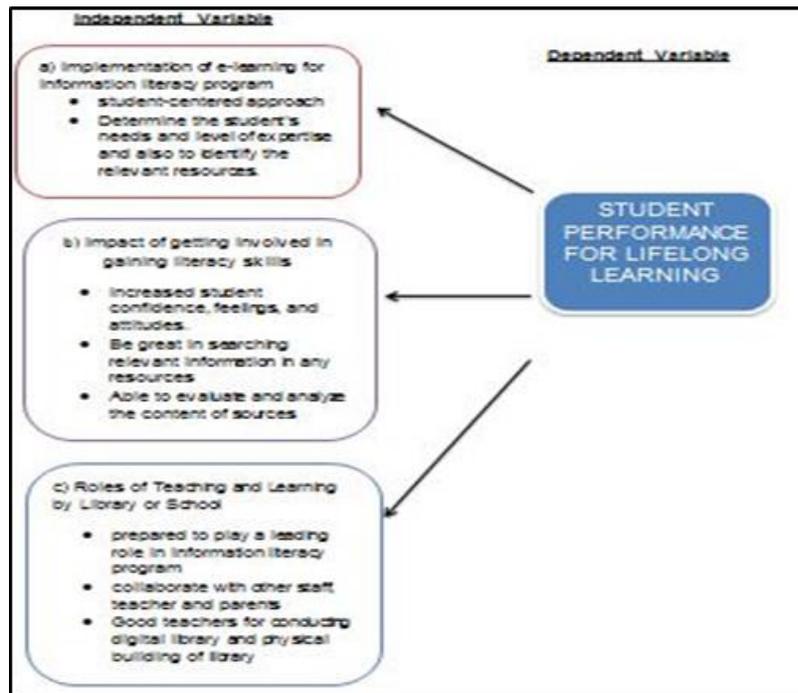


Figure 1: Proposed theoretical framework

### Implementation of E-Learning for Information Literacy Program

In this 21st century, there is no doubt that implementation of information literacy programs must require the collaboration of all staff, including an academic library, IT professionals, and parent as well to make it become reality. According to Kilic- Cakmak (2010), defined that, e-learning is defined as a learning environment that enables harmonized activities between students and teachers through developed course content presented with special techniques which depend on technology as a supportive learning that part of 'blended' approach. By doing implementation of e-learning will enabled the higher education institutions to determine the student's needs and level of expertise and also to identify the relevant resources for achieving the desired learning outcomes which help the individual itself to gain some benefit and knowledge from the output of having literacy skills which more depending on technology to make it works successfully.

It is also opened up some opportunities for restructuring and developed student learning experiences through various teaching methods and the development of suitable

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programs to satisfy learning requirements by the school to their students. According to Kilic- Cakmak (2010), highlight that e-learning offerings more student-centered approach to teaching and offers and engaging educational alternative for life-long learning. Meanwhile, Al-Adwan and Smedly (2012), in their study of e-learning in higher education institutions observed that e-learning has encouraged collaboration between students and tutors during context delivery by allowing the students to consider more flexible ways for learning and developing their information skills.

The developments in using ICT give greater performance as it is provide significant opportunities in educational fields which it help in explore and formulate new ideas on delivering the knowledge services which it will be used in supporting teaching and learning process for period of time that match with the needs of student requirements nowadays, for example by using video games also help to develop creativity and motivate the student to learn literacy skills. Likely nowadays, playing computer games is a part of the everyday activity for most young people currently either at home or cybercafé as long as they can connect to the internet for gaming. According to Weis and Ceankosky, (2010), they mentioned that there has been some growing issue on the positive educational and developmental aspects of video game playing which it giving benefits of using games for academic purposes that actually increase motivation to learn from that medium. Basically, we know that the features of video games are a site for learning in terms of developing problem-solving, critical thinking which is valuable in the context of learning process.

### **The Impact of Being Involved in Information Literacy Skills**

The example of other skills that the student has to know well such as audiovisual skills, computer knowledgeable, web searching literacy, being an informational literacy and so on. But in the case of having information literacy skills is combined all the concepts above in the same concept as one in a new concept today. Due to the information explosion, it has become clear perspective that students cannot learn everything they need to know in their field of study, within a period of time either at their school or environment but information literacy is something that we learn and applying in daily life to become independent lifelong learners. Both traditional method and 21st-century method should combine which it may become a good strategy to increase literacy skills. Nevertheless, the impact of information literacy instruction on student confidence, feelings, and attitudes, also been impact of learning and teaching this skills, and help on increased their knowledge and practice as well the skills of generating thoughtful finding strategies on a variety of online search interfaces that giving greater confidence and positive feedback in term of attitudes and behavior toward library-based research by student themselves.

### **Roles of Teaching and Learning by Library or School toward Literacy Skills**

There no doubts that when the rapid growing of using on the application of ICT to become literacy student and its transformation from traditional ways to e-learning method giving such as the great impact that higher education system needs to deal of

and the importance of improving the quality of student learning. Through some method such e-learning program, using video lectures to replace face to face also, they were able to replace basic-level user education programs with enhanced Information Literacy instruction for quality student performance for life-long learning.

But it seems that student less preferable to the library as particularly useful sources of information to gain knowledge maybe it is because of the physical building of a library that concerned more with the book, reference materials which students feel it's time to consume for searching a collection of materials. So, the main point here is, the librarian needs to guide them through the right procedures or process to assist them in gaining the learning and teaching method on searching and retrieving right sources. The roles of library and librarians must change to face with the new perspective or new realities that more on using technology for educational purposes which make the library become the important center for learning that staff of academic library should collaborate with the teacher as well parent to develop literacy skills on student in term of making them be self-independent learning, able to uses variety of information technologies and systems, able to evaluate and analyzing the information in right process.

First of all, the librarians should always be prepared to be a leader in information literacy programs. All library staff should have appropriate training and skills development and collaborate with other staff, teacher and parents as well to make the greater outcomes to fulfill what we wish the student to have major literacy skills. There are such of the tradition of collection been arranged in the library, but today digital library mostly prefers by the student to retrieve the books or collection instead of queue up in a long line to borrow the books. By having this activity, it is a pleasure for the librarian to teach their student on how to use their Web-OPAC in retrieving the collections, guide them to search for databases on journals, theses, research paper and so on.

In Lin, Chen, & Chang (2010), the great position requires someone who not only understands the library process or department and computers but someone who able to put both fields into one context which meets the user need and requirements. The content of information literacy means that the library should not focus much on its facilities or their basic activities but e-literacy implementation should go through as a means of stimulating students to learn more widely and more efficiently and that was challenging tasks by library to make it become true not for today but for long term period of learning and teaching process. Information literacy is a best essential part for students as capable learners.

### *Analysis Review*

As our research is focusing on the how well information literacy help on pertaining student's performance for lifelong learning, We found that it is a little bit harder in finding the current articles that really discussed this matter. As we go through all the articles, we found that the writer of the article tend to write about the implementation of e-learning program that depend on technology to run the process of teaching, roles of academic library and what are the benefit that student can gain in being an information literacy skills.

Nowadays, the concept of library-centered has a deeper relationship toward the students because the library was the heart of the School when they becoming the place to gain extensive knowledge instead of in the classroom. The impact when the growing on using technology in the learning process, makes the student become distant learner since electronic device allows the virtually every user to access library resources from other places in any time that they available on used it. Kilic- Cakmak (2010), in his research, states that E-learning is learning atmospheres in which students and teachers come together at certain times online, course content is offering with special techniques; and students, in general, perform learning duties and activities individually. In this situation, e-learning environment that offers educational alternatives and lifelong learning provides opportunities for students with standalone, being great independent and self-directed learning processes. By making an advantage of using technology make the process more efficiently it is because of combination the technologies that facilitate teaching and learning can help when the students are not in the same location but still can discuss and share their knowledge, opinion in the same platform via social networking such as Skype, Facebook, E-mail and so on and by this also, it can linking teachers as well as students in differing places. It also benefits to a student which is in distance learning student.

It is necessary skills for individual whereby they need to recognize the information that they found on their searching and to retrieve the good and right information, the basic things that they need to do are evaluate, identify the location and able to used it effectively in right time and right ways which they also enable to differentiate and eliminates the unimportant information and vital information respectively. The information is in widely used and spread through the world which we may find it everywhere and to access the information also in widely format such as through libraries, community resources, organizations, and also through social media or social networking and it is our great tasks that we need to deal of in terms of their readability, validity and the credibility of the various sources that may face challenges of some problems such as plagiarism, patent and so on. In the study by Pinto (2010) states that information literacy holds both the use and the creation of information under the umbrella of critical thinking and emotion. Besides that, the author defines that knowledge creation, or in other words, three dimensions of educational activity as knowledge, skills, and attitude. In simple word, Information literacy is a crucial part that is a key of vital importance particularly for independent studying, self-directed learning which valid for lifelong learning.

Students should have information literacy skills in order to define and search the information needed, to evaluate and analyze the content of information obtained, and then to decide on the accuracy of and to use the information. In brief, the individual who is being information literate persons is more successful in lifelong learning processes. This is a vital role for the library as well as librarian to make this goal become successfully because Library is a second institution that provides information and knowledge instead of in the classroom, the better place that we can do our assignment, discussed among team members and to study before an exam. In order to help them

searching right information in terms of retrieve the collection of material, it is crucial that, they need basic information on how to do a manual or online reference, how to evaluate and selecting the issues which really related due to their searching topics and how to differentiate between unimportant and vital importance information. The library should collaborate with teachers as well parent in developing these skills from an earlier stage until they finally able to be self-independent learning that makes them feel easy to do their own tasks without needing help from others. To having information literacy skills really helps on pertaining student's performance in school and also in reality life because they are able to adapt to the new 21st century that more advanced and fully used of technology as their method of learning process. Besides that, being an information literate student also, they may survive well, in other words, they are a survivor of life.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOME**

The aim of this study is to determine how information literacy skills can give advantages in achieving student's performance for lifelong learning. This study will give results how far each of every issue that was discussed in the literature review will reveal the advantages by having information literacy skills for each and every student because it gives them a benefit for long term period as an independent student. Throughout this study, we also hope that this study will give a benefit to the school, library, and parent as well community to interact well with having literacy skills in order to create an information literate society, especially in student life. They are assets of our country because they will become a leader in future which the individual should able to distinguish between important knowledge with unimportant knowledge or information that would give risk to their organization, community or maybe the development of country. So, by having competent literacy skills can help much in making them be good independent learners. Throughout this study, we hope that our respondents show good contribution toward our questionnaire that will distribute later and give a positive response on giving deep understanding of our research topic. Besides that, through this study, we want to gain deep knowledge about our research topic which it meaningful where our objective or purposes on doing this research can accomplish well with good cooperation from any person who may involve directly and indirectly during our research process.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion, information literate individuals can emphasize the society's quality of life in general and academically especially in student perception. By knowing the basics of information skills can help us in everyday life in term of doing an assignment, in decision-making theory, or do a proper assignment and so on. In simple word, be a literate skill is basic skills with additional skills in order to survive in our life. To make the dream come true, best program to be implemented by the School or Faculty is development of Information Literacy program which is vital requirement that help in facing the challenges of the 21st century today that needed support from library, school, teachers as well parents so the main objectives can accomplish successfully in order to

make students or user be a lifelong learner with critical thinking, developing variety of skills and be a knowledgeable person in future.

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