Digital Literacy and Usage of Mobile Learning Among the Students Community: A Study

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Abstract

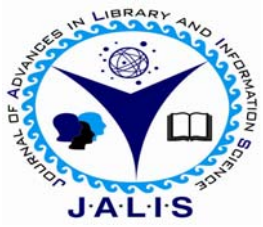
This study is aimed to analyse the opinion on mobile learning among the Arts and Science Students. Questionnaire method was adopted to collect the data. Out of 300questionnaires only 257(85.67%) were received from respondents. The highest numbers of respondents 91(35.41%) were in the age frequency of 21-25. 42(16.345%) were opinioned that the Possibility of radiation using Radio frequencies. 84(32.68%) were in the category of post graduates. The highest number of respondents 43(16.73%) were opinioned that the risk of sudden obsolescence.

Keywords

Literacy; Mobile Learning; Learning Purpose
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INTRODUCTION

The M-Learning community is still fragmented, with different national perspectives, differences between academia and industry, and between the school, higher education and lifelong learning sectors (Singh, 2010). Colazzo, Ronchetti, Trifonova, and Molinari (2003) state that, "A mobile learning educational process can be considered as any learning and teaching activity that is possible through mobile tools or in settings where mobile equipment is available."

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study aims to analysis the opinion on mobile learning among Students Community.

OBJECTIVES

1 To study the Demographic features of the respondents
2 To know the Time Frequency of using Mobiles by the respondents
3 To analyse the types of electronic resources by the respondents
4 To study the Accessing Points by the respondents
5 To know the Features in mobiles attracted by the respondents
6 To identify the purpose of using Mobiles
7 To know the Advantage in Mobile learning
8 To analyse the Barriers in Mobile learning

METHODOLOGY

This analysis attempts to study the opinion on mobile learning among the students. The well tested Questionnaire was distributed personally to the students and also sufficient time was given to the respondent to furnish the information. 300 Questionnaire were distributed to the respondents, out of this 257 were received back, making the response rate 85.67%. The collected data were classified and tabulated according to the objectives of the study analyzed by using statistical tools, such as percentage analysis.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Demographic features of the Respondents

S. No	Category of the respondents	Issued (%)	Returned (%)
1	Male	175(58.33)	148(49.33)
2	Female	125(41.67)	109(36.33)
	Total	300(100.00)	257(85.67)
Age frequency			
1	>20	67	26.07
2	21-25	91	35.41
3	26-30	47	18.29
4	> 30	52	20.23
	Total	257	100.00
Educational Qualification			
1	Undergraduates	121	47.08
2	Postgraduates	84	32.68
3	M.Phil/Ph.D	52	20.23
	Total	257	100.00

Table 1 show that the demographic features of the respondents. Among the 300, 175(58.33%) were issued to the male and 125(41.67%) were female. The highest number of questionnaires were received back from the male respondents 109(36.33%) were from the female respondents. The respondents were classified under their age frequency. The highest numbers of respondents 91(35.41%) were in the age frequency of 21-25. 67(26.07%) respondents were in the age frequency of below 20, 52(20.23%) of the respondents were in the age frequency of above 30 and 47(18.29%) respondents were in the age frequency of 26-30.

The respondents were further classified under their educational qualification. The highest number of respondents 121(47.08%) were in the category of undergraduates, 84(32.68%) were in the category of post graduates and 52(20.23%) were M.Phil/Ph.D.

Table 2: Time Frequency of using Mobiles by the respondents

S. No	Time Frequency	No. of Respondents	%
1	below 2hrs daily	52	20.23
2	2-3 Hours daily	62	24.12
3	below 10hrs per week	26	10.12
4	20hrs per week	58	22.57
5	More than 20hrs per week	59	22.96
	Total	257	100.00

Table 2 identified that the time frequency of using mobiles by the respondents. 59(22.96%) of the respondents were using mobiles more than 20hours per week, 58(22.57%) were using 20hours per week. The highest number of respondents 62(24.12%) were using mobiles 2-3 hours daily, 52(20.23%) were using below 2hours daily and 26(10.12%) of the respondents only were using below 10 hours per week.

Table 3: Types of electronic resources by the respondents

S .No	Types of electronic resources	No. of Respondents	%
1	Books/ Journals	76	29.57
2	Newspapers/Magazines	35	13.62
4	Story/Novel	19	7.39
5	Biographies/Memoirs	12	4.67
6	Hand Books/ Manuals/ Dictionaries	26	10.12
7	Social Networking sites	57	22.18
8	Any others	32	12.45
	Total	257	100.00

Table 3 studied that the types of electronic resources by the respondents. 57(22.18%) of the respondents were using social networking sites. The highest number of respondents were used 76(29.57%) were used Books/Journals, 35(13.62%) were used the Newspapers/Magazines,26(10.12%) were used Hand Books/ Manuals/ Dictionaries, 19(7.39%) were used Story/Novel and 12(4.67%) were used Biographies/Memoirs.

Table 4: Accessing Points by the Respondents

S. No	Accessing Points	No. of Respondents	%
1	Department	27	10.51
2	Home	108	42.02
3	Home & Department	42	16.34
4	Hostels	80	31.13
	Total	257	100.00

Table 4 identified that the accessing points used by the respondents. The highest number of respondents were 108(42.02%) accessed from the home, 80(31.13%) of the respondents were accessed from hostels, 42(16.34%) were accessed from the Home & Department and 27(10.51%) were accessed from departments.

Table 5 Features in mobiles attracted by the Respondents

S. No	Features	SA	%	Agree	%	No Opinion	%	DA	%	SDA	%
1	Easy Access	120	46.69	109	42.41	12	4.67	7	2.72	9	3.50
2	24x7 Access	98	38.13	132	51.36	7	2.72	14	5.45	6	2.33
3	Personalisation	62	24.12	75	29.18	34	13.23	57	22.18	29	11.28
4	Convinience & Flexibility	72	28.02	102	39.69	37	14.40	24	9.34	22	8.56
5	portability	82	31.91	76	29.57	41	15.95	32	12.45	26	10.12
6	Asynchronous	62	24.12	74	28.79	37	14.40	45	17.51	39	15.18
7	Authenticated	73	28.40	79	30.74	29	11.28	34	13.23	42	16.34
8	Transparent	68	26.46	87	33.85	32	12.45	28	10.89	42	16.34
9	Data Tracking	76	29.57	102	39.69	23	8.95	37	14.40	19	7.39

Table 5 analysed that the features in mobiles attracted by the respondents like easy access, portability, transparent, data tracking, convenience and flexibility. The highest number of respondents 120(46.69%) were attracted by easy access and they strongly agreed it was the most attracted features among the all and 109(42.41%) were agreed, 7(2.72%) were disagreed and 9(3.50%) were strongly disagreed. 98(38.13%) were strongly agreed for the 24x7 access and 132(51.36%) were agreed in that. 29(11.28%) were no opinioned on it was authenticated, 34(13.23%) were disagreed that and 42(16.34%) were strongly disagreed.

68(26.46%) were strongly agreed that the transparent features of the mobiles, 87(33.85%) were agreed that, 32(12.45%) were no opinioned in that. 37(14.40%) were disagreed the data tracking feature is attracted by him and 19(7.39%) were strongly disagreed. 82(31.91%) were strongly agreed that the portability feature and 76(29.7%) were strongly agreed and 32(12.45%) were disagreed and 26(10.12%) were strongly disagreed. 62(24.12%) were strongly agreed that the personalization feature was attracted, 75(29.18%) were agreed and 57(22.18%) were disagreed.

Table 6: Purpose of using by the Respondents

S. No	Purpose of using	No. of Respondents	%
1	Browsing websites	34	13.23
2	Accessing E-mail	42	16.34
3	Downloading Articles	27	10.51
4	For social Interaction	39	15.18
5	Reading e-book	19	7.39
6	Access the video lectures	21	8.17
7	Accessing information	13	5.06
8	Course related materials	16	6.23
10	Texting Reminder	9	3.50
11	Knowledge sharing forums	17	6.61
12	To identify the locations	13	5.06
13	To update the information like sports/weather etc	7	2.72
	Total	257	100.00

Table 6 showed that the purpose of using mobiles in learning process by the respondents. The highest number of the respondents 42(16.34%) were accessed the E-Mail which is also followed by accessed for social interaction 39(15.18%), 34(13.23%) were browsing websites, 17(6.61%) were for knowledge sharing forums, 13(5.06%) were to identify the locations, 21(8.17%) were access the video lectures and 7(2.72%) were only used to update the information like sports/weather etc

Table 7: Advantage in Mobile learning

S. No	Advantage in Mobile learning	No. of Respondents	%
1	Relevance & Learner control	17	6.61
2	Better Planning	21	8.17
3	Collaborative learning environment	25	9.73
4	Interaction is possible	22	8.56

5	24X7 availability	29	11.28
6	anywhere, any place, at any time	31	12.06
7	to avoid the communication gap	23	8.95
8	Sharing information is easy	27	10.51
9	Fast information delivery	25	9.73
10	For security issues	17	6.61
11	Cost Affordability	8	3.11
12	light weight	12	4.67
	Total	257	100.00

Table.7 assessed that the advantages in mobile learning. The highest number of respondents 31(12.06%) were anywhere, any place, at any time, 29(11.28%) were 24x7 availability, 25(9.73%) were Collaborative learning environment and fast information delivery, 27(10.51%) were sharing information is easy, 23(8.95%) were to avoid the communication gap, 25(9.73%) were fast information delivery, 17(6.61%) were security issues, 17(6.61%) were relevance and learner control and 12(4.67%) were for light weight

Table 8: Barriers in Mobile learning

S. No	Barriers	No. of Respondents	%
1	Inadequate memory	25	9.73
2	Short battery Life	32	12.45
3	Possibility of radiation using Radio frequencies	42	16.34
4	Taking electronic note is difficult	38	14.79
5	Annotating text is difficult	13	5.06
6	Risk of sudden obsolescence	43	16.73
7	Screen size and key size	28	10.89
8	required bandwidth for nonstop/fast streaming	36	14.01
	Total	257	100.00

Table.8 showed that the barriers in mobile learning. The highest number of respondents 43(16.73%) were opinioned that the risk of sudden obsolescence, 42(16.345%) were opinioned that the Possibility of radiation using Radio frequencies, 36(14.01%) were opinioned that the required bandwidth for nonstop/fast streaming, 38(14.79%) were taking electronic note is difficult, 28(10.89%) were opinioned that the screen size and key size, 13(5.06) were only opinioned that annotating text is difficult. 25(9.73%) were opinioned the inadequate memory, 32(12.45%) were opinioned that short battery life barrier.

CONCLUSION

Now a days the mobile is important thing to every human activities. But the student community must utilize the mobile for learning purpose also. The academic libraries as well as the information centers are provide variety of services via online. So, the student can access the information through mobiles which helps to make better learning.

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