ABSTRACTS

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Information behaviour of university students

This literature review attempts to give an overview of the field of university students' information behaviour. Students in general are one of the most investigated groups in the field of human information behavior. As J. Rowley and C. Urquhart quote the students' information behavior is diffuse, and difficult to draw into a coherent knowledge base. There are many studies of different aspects of information behavior and with different groups of students. This paper presents only some of the main conclusions and perspectives of selected studies. Studies in this field are conducted from the beginning of the seventies when the focus was on exploring the usage of library resources and services. During the last two decades the interest in students' library use and information behaviour in general has increased and expand the focus of research. This review presents the literature in the following main areas: disciplinary differences in information seeking and use as well as differences in university degree, the impact of curriculum and wider context including learning and teaching on students’ information-seeking behavior, affect of personality attributes on students' information seeking behaviour, and studies that focus on use of electronic information services and resources. Studies that seek to examine the impact of training in the field of information literacy on students' information behaviour are also presented. Information literacy is closely related to learning processes, and there are great number of studies that explore especially the influence of electronic or digital information sources used to support learning. This paper also highlights research problems that authors suggest as topics for further studies. One of such topics is the impact of new teaching methods and resources on students' information needs, seeking and use of information.

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Students' information behavior and a role of academic library

In the paper there are presented the results of some available studies of students' information seeking behavior which were conducted in different countries. The aim of these studies was to identify information needs, sources, and types of library use by university students from various disciplinary fields. According to the results, the majority of the respondents requires information for academic purposes (such as papers, assignments or examinations), frequently using
information sources like books, journal articles, online sources etc. Internet was for many students a very important source in finding academic materials. Most of the students received advice in finding relevant information sources from their lecturers, peers, and librarians. This paper also describes some aspects related to information seeking behavior of young students (Generation Y, and Millennial generation) who were influenced by their peers, and had a poor understanding of their information needs. They prefer quick Google search, navigation through virtual libraries, and spend more time in download of the materials than in utilizing e-sources. Although the academic libraries were often consulted only for borrowing books and using reference material or printed periodicals, it has been established that the role of academic libraries was very significant in satisfying university students’ information needs. Some research questions that arise from selected studies should examine information seeking behavior of the students between different disciplines considering various context situations in which information tasks are performed. Moreover further studies should explore factors that affect students’ library use, and identify significance of the library instruction in improving academic library services for the users.

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User Experiences of Next Generation Library Catalogues: A Literature Review

Many academic libraries are at the point of realizing their current online catalogs are not meeting their users’ expectations. Instead to Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACs) more often than not users are turning to Amazon, Google and Google Scholar in search of scholarly information. However, there is hope. Since 2006 online library catalogs featuring qualities similar to those of Google and of Amazon are emerging. These library tools are referred to as the Third Generation Online Catalogs, the Next Generation Catalogues (NGCs), Search and Discovery tools, Discovery Tools, Discovery Layers, One-Stop-Shops and so on. Numerous scholarly texts claim these tools to be significant improvement over classic OPACs, however, not may usability studies have been done on such catalogues. Through reviewing available literature the author will attempt to address several questions: What usability studies of NGCs have been done so far? According to the reviewed usability studies which features of NGCs users find useful and why? Do different user groups interact with NGCs differently?