Evaluation of Web Pages of Selective Information Literacy Portal

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Abstract

    Information literacy is playing a vital role for an educational reform movement to realize its potential only through a richer, more complex set of core ideas. Present paper focused on information literacy, objectives, scope and limitations, research methodology, major findings and implications

Key Word *Web pages, Information literacy*

Information Literacy

The term 'Information Literacy' had its roots back in 1974 when Professor Paul Zurkowski, the President of Information Industry Association, coined the term **'**Information Skills' to refer to people who are able to solve their information problems by using relevant information sources and applying relevant technology (Oviatt, 2010). Gradually, after replacing the terms user education, library orientation and bibliographic instruction, information literacy became a prime factor in attaining knowledge and developing new understanding. Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) defines information literacy as "the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information" (ACRL, 2000). ALA's Presidential Committee on Information Literacy states "Information literate people are those who have learned how to learn.

Objectives of the study

Following objectives for the present study as
To evaluate the Information Literacy portals using following criteria
1. Link provided
2. Contact details
3. Authority
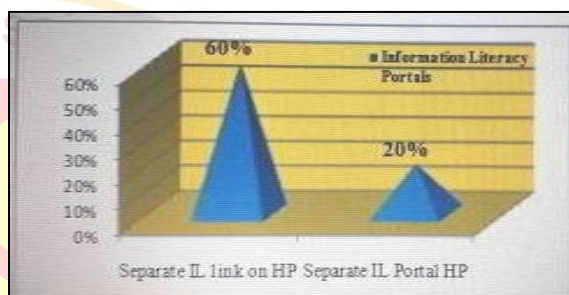4. links supporting navigation

Scope and Limitations of the Study

    The study is confined to surfing the internet for the selective 10 Information Literacy Portals. The study is also limited to the home page of IL portals which were evaluated by using selected evaluation criteria.

Research Methodology

    The Home pages Information Literacy portals were evaluated during the study by applying the set evaluation criteria as mentioned in the Aims and Objectives. Total 10 portals of Information Literacy are selected for the present study. The collected data has been analyzed and compared for evaluative study with the help of statistical techniques and presented data in tabular as well as in graphical form.

Figure no. 1: Details of web pages

From the above figure, 60% information literacy portals have provided the separate information literacy link on home page while 20% information literacy portals have provided the separate information literacy portal home page.

Table no. 1: Analysis of contact details on web page

Sr. No.	Criteria	No. of information literacy portals having the facility
1	Address on IL Portal page	100%
2	Phone no.	100%
3	Fax no.	100%
4	E-mail	100%
5	How to reach	50%
6	Separate contact link	40%

From the above table, all the information literacy portals have provided the facility for address, phone no., fax no., and e-mail, followed by 50% IL portals have given the link describing the route to reach the portal, and 40% IL portals have provided the facility of "separate contact link".

Table no. 2: analysis of authority on web pages

Sr. No.	Criteria	No. of information literacy portals having the facility
1	Author/ designer	50%
2	Credentials	0
3	Contact details	100%
4	Maintenance authority	0
5	Copyright statement	100%

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Page No.
58

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From the above table, the entire information literacy portals has mentioned the 'contact detail', and is copyrighted, followed by 50% IL portals have mentioned the author/ designer. No one IL portals have given the credentials of the author or designer and have not provided the details of the maintenance authority.

Table no. 3: Analysis of links supporting navigation on home pages

Sr. No.	Criteria	No. of IL Portals having the facility
1	No. of link, use of back button	20%
2	Use of images	70%
3	Links clearly labeled	100%
4	Pages/ portions are printed separately	100%
5	Home link on each page	80%
6	Can a particular page be located from any other page	90%
7	Back & forward links between pages	20%
8	Scrolling Pages	100%
9	Index / Site map	30%

From the above table, all the information literacy portals have used the links for clearly labeled, have printed separately pages or portions, and have provided facility of scrolling pages, followed by 90% information literacy portals have provided the facility of particular page located from any other page, 80% information literacy portals have provided the facility of home link on IL portals, and 70% information literacy portals have provided the facility for use of images whereas 30% information literacy portals have provided the facility of back and forward links, facility of index or site map, and 20% information literacy portals have used of back button.

Findings

1. As regards the details of web pages, 60% information literacy portals have provided the separate information literacy link on home page while 20% information literacy portals have provided the separate information literacy portal home page. (Figure no. 1)
2. As regards the contact details on web page, all the information literacy portals have provided the facility for address, phone no., fax no., and e-mail, followed by 50% IL portals have given the link describing the route to reach the portal, and 40% IL portals have provided the facility of "separate contact link". (Table no. 1)
3. As regards the authority on web pages, the entire information literacy portals has mentioned the 'contact detail', and is copyrighted, followed by 50% IL portals have mentioned the author/ designer. No one IL portals have given the credentials of the author or designer and have not provided the details of the maintenance authority. (Table no. 2)
4. As regards the links supporting navigation on home pages, all the information literacy portals have used the links for clearly labeled, have printed separately pages or portions, and have provided facility of scrolling pages, followed by 90% information literacy portals have provided the facility of particular page located from any other page, 80% information literacy portals have provided the facility of home link on IL portals, and 70% information literacy portals have provided the facility for use of images. (Table no. 3)

Implications

The information literacy portals web site should be properly structured with systematically designed web pages. Proper navigational links should be provided on internal pages. Index or site map links should be provided on home page.

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