



HOW ENGAGING ARE YOU? EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM MALAYSIAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

Digital library engagement is the extensive use of digital library features and services. Contrary to the traditional concept of usage, DL engagement evaluates the use of an information system based on multiple dimensions; affective, cognitive, and behavioural. Presently, there is scarce evidence and research on the level of DL engagement. Lack of such evidence caused under-utilization of DL resources. Therefore, our research intends to determine the degree of DL engagement among postgraduate students. A quantitative study was conducted; an instrument was distributed to postgraduate students in the context of Malaysian universities, focusing on research universities. 492 responses were recorded and descriptively analyses using statistical software. Next, the data were evaluated using independent sample t-test for two conditions, analysis of variance (ANOVA) for more than two conditions, and frequency analysis to identify significance difference and mean distribution of data among the participating universities. Results show that respondent's age and research domain showed a significant effect on DL engagement, while gender, study mode, level of study, semester, and the university did not show any significant effect on DL engagement.

Research Highlights

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the current degree of DL engagement among postgraduate students at Malaysian research universities is very good with mean score of 5.0020.

There is no significance different between DL engagement in relation to gender, study mode, and level of study.

There is a significant effect of respondent's research domain and age on DL engagement.

Research Objectives

The study aims to investigate the current degree of DL engagement among postgraduate students in Malaysian research universities. Similarly, the study also investigates the significant difference in the distribution of means within several demographic factors such as age, gender, semester, mode of study, level of study, and research domain.

Methodology

A quantitative study was conducted to investigate the current level of DL engagement among postgraduate students in Malaysian research universities. An instrument was developed by adopting and adapting to previous studies of Masrek and Gaskin (2016), Kiran and Diljit (2012), Masrek and Samadi (2017), and O'Brien and Toms (2010). The instrument was pretested, expert evaluations, and pilot test before actual data collection. Data collection took





4 weeks in November 2019. The population of the respondents was selected based on convenience sampling method. A total of 493 responses were received, however, one response was excluded due to empty dataset.

Results

The findings of the study were interpreted based on independent sample t-test for two conditions, frequency analysis, and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) for more than two conditions. We utilize the statistical package, Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 24 for the data analysis. The mean score for the factors underlying the concept of DL engagement are as follows: focus attention (4.363), felt involvement (5.1748), aesthetic (5.1408), and novelty (5.3293). The result of independent sample t-test are as follows: male (mean = 5.0250, std. dev. = 1.02174) and female (mean = 4.9882, std. dev. = 1.04529); conditions; $t(490) = 0.382$, $p = 0.703$, fulltime (mean = 4.9781, std. dev. = 1.03852) and part-time (mean = 5.0913, std. dev. = 1.02468); conditions; $t(490) = -0.990$, $p = 0.322$, and doctorate (mean = 5.0036, std. dev. = 1.06923) and master (mean = 5.0007, std. dev. = 1.00772); conditions; $t(490) = -0.094$, $p = 0.925$. On the other hand, the ANOVA results are as follows: age → DL Engagement [$F(4, 487) = 2.801$, $p = 0.025$], semester → DL Engagement [$F(7, 484) = 0.560$, $p = 0.789$], research domain → DL engagement [$F(6, 485) = 3.196$, $p = 0.004$], and university → DL Engagement [$F(4, 487) = 0.582$, $p = 0.676$].

Findings

The findings of the study are as follows. First, it can be concluded that the current level of DL engagement among postgraduate students at Malaysian research universities is very good with a mean score of 5.0020. Second, there is no significant difference between DL engagement concerning gender, study mode, and level of study. Third, there is a significant effect of the respondent's research domain and age on DL engagement. Fourth, there is no significant effect of semester and universities on DL engagement.

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