

INFORMATION BEHAVIOUR OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
MASTERS AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS WITH SPECIFIC
REFERENCE TO THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

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Presentation Outline

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Introduction

- Information science as a discipline aims at:
 - solving an information gap
 - facilitating information sharing
- IB the totality of the activities a person performs to find the desired information (Case, 2007: 5)
- The information could be needed to solve
 - Academic or Leisure activities

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Introduction Cont'd

- IB Involves a host of activities which include;
 - Information Seeking,
 - Information Searching,
 - Information retrieval
- Be mindful of the changing information behaviour and needs of the users in the Digital era
- Libraries have to shift towards user centered information service delivery (Vezzosi, 2008: 65)

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Statement of the Problem

- IT Tools been set up to support the easy access to information resources
- Students who lack the skills and competencies may find them a problem
- Witnessed poor usage statistics of subscribed resources
- Not fully utilising these IT Systems negates reasons for setting them up

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Research Questions

- What information seeking behaviours do Masters and Doctoral students exhibit?
- What are the different information technology tools that have been integrated in libraries to improve service delivery?
- How do the students interact with the information technology tools in place to search for information which satisfies their needs?
- How has the use of information technology influenced the information behaviour of the Masters and Doctoral students?

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Methodology

- Followed the Qualitative Research Approach
- Study population: a sample of the Masters and PhD students at Makerere University
- Data collection instrument used was Questionnaire

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Findings

- Main source of Information is the Internet, Library text book collection and subscribed and open access e-Resources
- Information needed mainly to write their Thesis and assignments/course work
- IL Training Sessions introduced students to the IT Tools in the Library

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Findings...cont'd

- The IT Tools greatly influenced the students' IB practices
- IP restricted access to e-journals
- The idea of paying for journal articles deter the students from accessing resources
- Availability of the Document Delivery Services
- The OPAC searches sometimes don't match what is available on the shelf

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Recommendations

- Have customised IL trainings
- Easy access to e-resources for the students off the University
- Providing Open access to resources in the Repository

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What has been Implemented

- An Ezy-proxy server was installed
- A Library e-Resources/IL Training Team constituted to provide customised IL training
- Trained students in Thesis self archiving

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Implemented Cont'd

- Collaboration with CUUL through the EIFL/SPIDER
- Participated in the



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Acknowledgement



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