

Relationship Between Information Literacy Programs and Research Competency: The Mediating Role of Information-Seeking Skills

Jacqueline G. Austria

<https://orcid.org/0009-0003-5070-4479>

austria.jacqueline@paranaquecitycollege.edu.ph

Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines
Parañaque City College, Manila, Philippines

Abstract

This study examined the relationship between Information Literacy Programs (ILPs) and research competency among undergraduate students in selected private higher education institutions in Metro Manila. It specifically investigated the extent of ILP implementation, assessed students' information-seeking skills and research competence, and examined whether these skills mediate the relationship between ILPs and research performance. A descriptive-correlational research design was employed, involving 384 respondents selected through appropriate sampling procedures. Data were gathered using a validated researcher-developed questionnaire grounded in established information behavior and literacy frameworks. Descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and mediation analysis were utilized. Findings revealed that ILPs are generally well implemented with respect to content, delivery methods, frequency, and student participation. Students demonstrated satisfactory research competency, particularly in evaluating sources and producing organized academic outputs, although information synthesis obtained comparatively lower ratings. Information-seeking skills were rated positively, with ethical integration of information receiving the highest assessment and selection of appropriate tools obtaining the lowest. Statistical results indicated a significant positive relationship between ILPs and research competency. Moreover, information-seeking skills significantly mediated this relationship, suggesting that ILPs enhance research performance both directly and indirectly by strengthening search and evaluation behaviors. The study underscores the importance of structured implementation, faculty–librarian collaboration and sustained institutional support in developing research-ready students.

Keywords: Information Literacy Programs, Research Competency, Information-Seeking Skills, Higher Education, Educational Management