

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

December 2020

An Analytical Study of LIS Topics covered on Wikipedia

Medha Rajesh Mangurkar Mrs.

HPT Arts & RYK Science College Nasik, Maharashtra, India, medhamangurkar@gmail.com

Dinesh B. Khandvi Mr

HPT Arts & RYK Science College Nasik, Maharashtra, India, khandvidinesh1234@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Mangurkar, Medha Rajesh Mrs. and Khandvi, Dinesh B. Mr, "An Analytical Study of LIS Topics covered on Wikipedia" (2020). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 4658.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4658>

An Analytical Study of LIS Topics covered on Wikipedia

*Medha R. Mangurkar

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Library & Information Science,

HPT Arts & RYK Science College, Nasik-422005. Fax no. - 0253-2573097

email- medhamangurkar@gmail.com

Mobile -91-9421402312

**Dinesh B. Khandvi,

M.L.I.Sc. Student, Dept. of Library & Information Science,

HPT Arts & RYK Science College, Nasik-422005.

email-khandvidinesh1234@gmail.com

Mobile- 91-7758994647

ABSTRACT-

One of the objectives of UGC is to conduct efficient, transparent standard tests to evaluate the ability of the candidate for the purpose of admission and recruitment. UGC conducts National Eligibility Test (NET) to determine eligibility for lectureship and for award of Junior Research fellowship (JRF) in Social Sciences, Humanities, Forensic Science, Environmental, Computer Science and Electronic Science.

Wikipedia is a website developed collaboratively by a community of users, allowing them to change or add study material on it. The researcher has made an attempt to study the extent to which the syllabus of Library and Information Science subject of the UGC-NET has been covered in Wikipedia. The findings reveal that all topics of the LIS subject incorporated in the UGC-NET examination syllabus are covered in the Wikipedia. The researcher has identified some subjects for which the contents are inadequate. It is recommended by the researcher to add references and external links.

KEYWORDS: Wikipedia, UGC, NET, Library and Information Science, online encyclopedia, higher education, academic resources

INTRODUCTION

Wikipedia, the multilingual, free online encyclopedia supported by Wikimedia Foundation can be edited by anyone and anywhere in the world. The contributors of

Wikipedia can make changes in the contents of Wikipedia anonymously or with a pseudonym and without any payment. There are about 72,000 active contributors working on more than 48,000,000 articles in 302 languages. Till date, there are 5,894,313 articles in English. Every day thousands of visitors visit the website of Wikipedia and add thousands of articles in Wikipedia.

Wikipedia is a popular resource among students. Selwyn and Gorard (2016) reported that 87.5% of students report using Wikipedia for their academic work, with 24.0% of these considering it 'very useful'. Students turn to Wikipedia to get background information of a subject, find meaning of terms, and has easy to use interface (Head & Eisenberg, 2010).

In India, University Grants Commission (UGC), a statutory body set up by the Indian Union Government in accordance to the UGC Act 1956 under Ministry of Human Resource Development, and is charged with coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education. One of the objectives of UGC is to conduct efficient, transparent and international standards test to evaluate the candidates for the purpose of admission and recruitment. In this regard the UGC conducts National Eligibility Test (NET) to recruit teaching professionals and for awarding Junior Research Fellowships. This test is conducted in Humanities including languages, Social Science, forensic Science, Environmental Science, Computer Science and Electronic Science. This exam is conducted in an online mode and twice in a year. The NET has prescribed syllabus for each subject and the candidates have to appear for two papers viz. General Paper I on Teaching and Research Aptitude and Paper II deals with the respective subject of the candidate. The syllabus for the general paper and subject paper is divided in ten units.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the percentage of NET syllabus of the subject Library and Information Science covered in Wikipedia and other aspects like date of updating, no. of references and illustrations etc.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To find out the coverage of LIS topics on Wikipedia.
2. To know the extent to which Wikipedia covers the content of LIS subject for UGC-NET.
3. To recognize the up-to-datedness of Wikipedia articles.

4. To study the references and external links provided in the Wikipedia articles.

SCOPE: The scope of the study is limited to the subject Library and Information Science of UGC-NET dealt in Wikipedia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Harinarayana N.S. et.al (2017) carried out a study to find out the coverage of Library and Information Science topics covered in UGC-NET syllabus. Other aspects like comprehensiveness, updateness, illustrations, references and external links were also observed by the authors.

In a study conducted by Selwyn and Gorard (2016) on students' perceptions on usefulness of Wikipedia, the students viewed Wikipedia as a supplementary source providing introduction to the topic. The use of Wikipedia was found to be increased by students progressing in higher education.

Chen (2010) studied the perspectives of higher education faculty on Wikipedia. He discussed the positive and negative aspects of use of Wikipedia by the faculty members. He observed that the faculty members found Wikipedia convenient but not reliable. While some of the faculty members responded that they used Wikipedia for gathering background information, find definitions or to get quick references.

Similar study was carried out by Lim (2009) for use of Wikipedia by undergraduate students. The study revealed that Wikipedia is used for collecting background information of a topic. The experiences of students with Wikipedia was found to be positive but were moderately satisfied about the quality and accuracy of information. The information on Wikipedia was current and the students used references and links for further reading.

Okoli (2009) has studies various aspects of Wikipedia, viz. editorial process, reliability, study of citations, applications of Wikipedia in the field of education and economics. His study revealed that Wikipedia could be used as a model for assigning projects to school children for creating encyclopedia, for enhancing their literacy and its collaborative style could be used in writing their projects.

Black (2008) discussed the peer review process of Wikipedia. Wikipedia encourages multiple authorship and the active members of the Wikipedia community take

administrative positions and are responsible for adding, deleting and banning users if required.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: The present study is based on content analysis method. The data was collected using observation as a tool. The data was collected from 8th February to 28th February 2019.

RESULT & FINDINGS

Table No. 1 Availability of Content

The UGC prescribes a syllabus for the preparation for NET in all disciplines and so also in LIS. The content of the LIS syllabus is in ten units which is listed below.

Unit No. & Title of Unit	Total topics in NET syllabus under each unit	No. of topics available in Wikipedia	%
Unit 7 Information Technology	64	55	85.9
Unit 9 Research methods	56	28	50%
Unit 1 Information, Communication and Society	44	22	50%
Unit 3 Reference Sources	47	21	44.6%
Unit 8 Library Automation and Networking	65	25	38.4%
Unit 5 Library Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing and Information Retrieval	49	18	36.7%
Unit 10 Types of Library and Digital Library	14	05	35.75

Unit 4 Reference and Information Services	59	20	33.9%
Unit 2 Laws of Library Science and Library Profession and Library Association	38	12	31.5%
Unit 6 Management of Library and Information Centres	53	15	28.3%
Total	489	221	45.2

The above table no. 1 shows the total number of topics of all units available on Wikipedia. Total 221 topics out of 489 topics on NET syllabus are available in Wikipedia which is less than 50%. It can be observed that the coverage of topics in different units varies significantly. The maximum coverage of topics is found in Unit no.7 Information Technology followed by Unit 9 and Unit 1 (50%) whereas for rest of other Units it is less than 50%.

Table No. 2 Year of Updation

Updating the contents provides a lot of benefits. It enhances the use and facilitates ranking in the search engine.

Year of Updation	No. of Contents	%
2019	182	82.4
2018	34	15.4
2017	3	1.3
2016	2	0.9
Total	221	100

Table no. 2 reveals that in the year 2016 and 2017 the content uploaded were minimum and maximum number of contents was updated in the year 2019 which is satisfactory.

Table no. 3 Unit wise References

Reference allow the author to give credit to the other writers to which he has referred during writing his article and also directs the reader for further reading. The following table lists the number of references given at the end of each topic discussed in Wikipedia.

Unit No. & Title of Unit	No. of topics available in Wikipedia	Availability of references for these topics
Unit 7 Information Technology	55	51(93%)
Unit 9 Research Methods	28	28(100%)
Unit 8 Library Automation and Networking	25	25(100%)
Unit 4 Reference and Information Services	20	20(100%)
Unit 1 Information, Communication & Society	22	19(86.3%)
Unit 3 Reference Sources	21	19(90.5%)
Unit 5 Library Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing and Information Retrieval	18	18(100%)
Unit 6 Management of Library and Information Centres	15	15(100%)
Unit 2 Laws of Library Science and Library Profession and Library Association	12	10(83.3%)
Unit 10 Types of Library and Digital library	05	05(100%)
Total	221	210(95%)

The above table shows that for Six Units the references are cent percent and for other units it is more than 85% which is quite good and the overall availability of references is 95%.

Table no. 4 Availability of Illustrations

An illustration is a drawing, painting, graph, chart etc. An illustration helps the reader to get a better understanding of what is provided in the text. The illustrations available in Wikipedia is listed below.

Unit No. & Title of Unit	No. of topics available in Wikipedia	Availability of illustrations
Unit 4 Reference and Information Services	20	18(90%)
Unit 9 Research Methods	28	21(75%)
Unit 7 Information Technology	55	39(71%)
Unit 8 Library Automation and Networking	25	17(68%)
Unit 1 Information, Communication & Society	22	14(63.6%)
Unit 3 Reference Sources	21	12(57.1%)
Unit 5 Library Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing and Information Retrieval	18	10(55.5%)
Unit 2 Laws of Library Science and Library Profession and Library Association	12	6(50%)
Unit 6 Management of Library and Information Centres	15	6(40%)
Unit 10	05	2(40%)

Types of Library and Digital library		
Total	221	145(65.6%)

Table no. 4 shows that maximum illustrations are found in Unit no. 4 Reference and Information Services (90%) followed by Unit no. 9 Research Methods (75%) and Unit no. 7 Information Technology (71%). In Unit no. 6 Management of Library and Information Centre and Unit no. 10 the references added are just 40%.

Table No. 5 External Links

External links are hyperlinks that links that allows you the reader to link to another website which might be related to the topic and be of interest to him for further reference.

Unit No. & Title of Unit	No. of topics available in Wikipedia	Availability of external links
Unit No. 5 Library Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing and Information Retrieval	18	17(94%)
Unit No.8 Library Automation and Networking	25	20(80%)
Unit No. 4 Reference and Information Services	20	16(80%)
Unit No.2 Laws of Library Science and Library Profession and Library Association	12	09(75%)
Unit No. 7 Information Technology	55	40(73%)
Unit No. 1 Information, Communication & Society	22	15(68%)
Unit No. 6 Management of Library and Information Centres	15	10(66%)

Unit No. 3 Reference Sources	21	13(62%)
Unit No. 9 Research Methods	28	17(61%)
Unit No.10 Types of Library and Digital library	05	02(40%)
	Total=221	159(72%)

It can be clearly seen from Table No. 5 Unit No. 5 Library Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing and Information Retrieval has maximum no. of external links followed by Unit no. 8 and Unit no. 4 with 80% of links.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Several studies show that Wikipedia has gained popularity as an academic resource. Students, teachers, researchers are using Wikipedia to a large extent. Wikipedia is generally used for getting information on familiar topics and not for new and hot topics. In the year 2019 maximum number of contents were uploaded. The results of the present study show that only 45.2% of Library and Information Science syllabus is covered in the NET syllabus. Maximum number i.e. 55 (85.9%) contents are available in the subject Information Technology. For the subjects 'Research Methodology' and 'Information Communication and Society' 50% of the UGC-NET syllabus is covered. Maximum number of contents 182 (82.3%) were updated in the year 2019. The subject 'Information Technology' has highest number of references and illustrations while lowest number of references and illustrations were found in the subject 'Types of Library and Digital Library.' The study shows that the number of external links provided is adequate i.e. (72%).

The contents for the following subjects were found very low. It is recommended that the topics for these subjects should be developed. The contents of the subjects that needs to be enhanced are 'Library Automation and Networking', 'Library Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing and Information Retrieval', 'Types of Library and Digital Library', 'Reference and Information Services', 'Laws of Library Science & Library Profession and Library Association', and 'Management of Libraries and Information

Centers'. References, external links and illustrations need to be increased for the subject 'Types of Library and Digital Library'.

References

- Black E.W. (2008). Wikipedia and academic peer review: Wikipedia as a recognized medium for scholarly publication. *Online Information Review*, 32(1):73-88.
Doi-10.1108/14684520810865994
- Chen H. (2010). The perspectives of higher education faculty on Wikipedia. *The Electronic Library*.28 (3): 361-373.
- Harinarayana N.S., & Meenakshi, S & Vasantha Raju, N. (2017). Wikipedia and lis: A study of coverage of concepts for UGC-NET. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*. 64(1): 69-75.
- Head A.J. and Eisenberg M.B. (2010).How today's college students use Wikipedia for course-related research. *First Monday*, 15(3).
<https://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/download/2830/2476>
- Konieczny P. (2016). Teaching with Wikipedia in 21st century classroom: perceptions of Wikipedia and its educational benefits. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 67(7): 1523-1534. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.23616>
- Lim S. (2009). How and why do college students use Wikipedia? *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and technology*, 60 (11): 2189-2202.
- Okoli C. (2009). A brief review of studies of Wikipedia in peer-reviewed journals, Third *International conference on digital society*. doi: 10.1109/ICDS. 2009.28.
- Selwyn, N. and Gorard, S. (2016). Students' use of Wikipedia as an academic resource- patterns of use and perceptions of usefulness. *The Internet and Higher Education*. 28: 28-34. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iheduc.2015.08.004>
<https://www.wikipedia.org>
<https://www.ugcnetonline.in>
<https://www.cbsetnet.nic.in>
