



An Evaluative Study of the Reading Habits of the UG Students regarding the Documents related to the Career Guidance in the Prafulla Chandra College Library

Dr. Asok Kumar Das

Library Professional, Prafulla Chandra College, Kolkata

Abstract :

The present paper highlights the reading habits of undergraduate students, their choice of information search, and the impact of career guidance information sources reading to develop career and level of satisfaction in terms of library use. This study aims to give a general picture of the reading habits of career guidance documents by undergraduate students in Prafulla Chandra College, Kolkata. The method adopted in the study is a survey-based questionnaire consists of ten questions where four are data about gender, time spent for reading, the purpose of reading, and choice of career guidance documents, while six others are specific close-ended questions about the reading of career guidance documents. The analysis of feedback shows that undergraduate students mostly read the career guidance documents to gain knowledge for competitive examination and personal satisfaction. The study also shows the use of social media because of a busy schedule which affects the reading habits.

Keywords :

Career Guidance, Reading habit, Undergraduate students, Awareness, Career Development, College Library.

1. Introduction :

In the 21st century, we are living in an unemployment-driven society and career guidance books, journals, magazines are the most common and popular providers of current information. The present study reveals that the career guidance source is not only a source of information but also the best social media of current information and knowledge. To keep ourselves up to date with the ever-advancing world and to get

ready for competitive examinations, reading career guidance sources of information is the best way. Whatever their forms, the basic function of career guidance information sources is to provide current information to the learned society about diversified discipline ranging from local to international importance. Reading is interrelated with the total educational process and hence, educational success requires successful reading. Reading career guidance source of information is to develop all-time reading behavior, updating current news, acquiring knowledge and awareness of social activities. Reading habit of career guidance source including newspaper reading daily is recognized as a most essential life skill. It not only increases our general knowledge and intelligence but also helps to improve our lifestyle, makes us ready to appear for competitive examinations, develop cognitive thinking and moral character.

2. Objectives of the study :

The following objectives have been framed for the present study:

- i. To know the trend and purpose of career guidance books, journals, magazine reading in the college library.
- ii. To find out the level of awareness of Prafulla Chandra College students about career guidance documents reading in their college library.
- iii. To identify the choice and benefits of current career guidance sources by the undergraduate students in their college library.
- iv. To assess the average time spent for reading career guidance books, journals, and magazines by the undergraduate students in their college library.
- v. To examine the role of career guidance documents including employment news in students' curriculum activities and career development work.
- vi. To know the impact of career guidance documents reading in the competitive examination of the college student community.
- vii. To investigate the student's satisfaction in comparison to other sources of information.
- viii. To build up a perception about the future of career guidance.



3. Methodology of the study :

The present study is purely based on primary data collected from the undergraduate users of Prafulla Chandra College library, Kolkata, West Bengal. The study is exclusively conducted under the supervision of the Librarian, Library Assistant, and library staff of Prafulla Chandra College library users belonging to diversified disciplines. A well-structured questionnaire was framed keeping in view the objectives of the study and used for data collection. A total of 60 questionnaires were administered out of which 50 filled-in questionnaires were obtained from the students. After obtaining completed questionnaires, the collected data were analyzed through simple percentages and graphs to reach the aim of the study.

4. Scope and coverage of the study :

The scope of the current study is to examine the present scenario about career guidance reading habits among the undergraduate students of Prafulla Chandra College in their college library and the impact of reading habits in their future career life. The present study mainly concentrates upon the undergraduate student users of the Prafulla Chandra College, Kolkata, West Bengal, and has been conducted on the subject of the career guidance books, journals, magazines reading habit in the library.

5. Review of related literature :

Cardoso, Savickas and Gonçalves (2020) explained the facilitating narrative change in career construction counseling through the Journal of Career Development. Journal of Career Development provided the professional the public and policymakers with the latest in career development theory research and practice while focusing on the impact of theory and research on practice. Among the topics covered were career education, adult career development, career development of special needs populations, and career and leisure. The journal provided up-to-date coverage of contemporary issues and identified trends impacting the future of the world.

Sharma and Saini (2019) showed the level of newspaper reading habits of students. They identified that newspaper is the best source of information which gives us knowledge of every field.

Arthur, Khapova and Richardson (2017) provided a complete guide that will allow workers to take a composite, dynamic view of a life's work in the 21st century. Syahputra (2016) described the reading habit of Indonesian post-graduate students. He found that the reading rate was low and they preferred to read material from the internet for pleasure purposes rather than academic purposes.

Simon (2016) concluded that to ensure that students can make a full contribution to society, institutions of higher learning need to create more opportunities for students and academia to interface with industry to boost students' self-confidence and to re-orient them towards reformulating their educational objectives to mirror the requirements of the industry.

6. Analysis and interpretation of the calculated data

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaire

Student Category	Number of Questionnaire Distributed	Percentage (%)
Male	40	67%
Female	20	33%
Total	60	100%

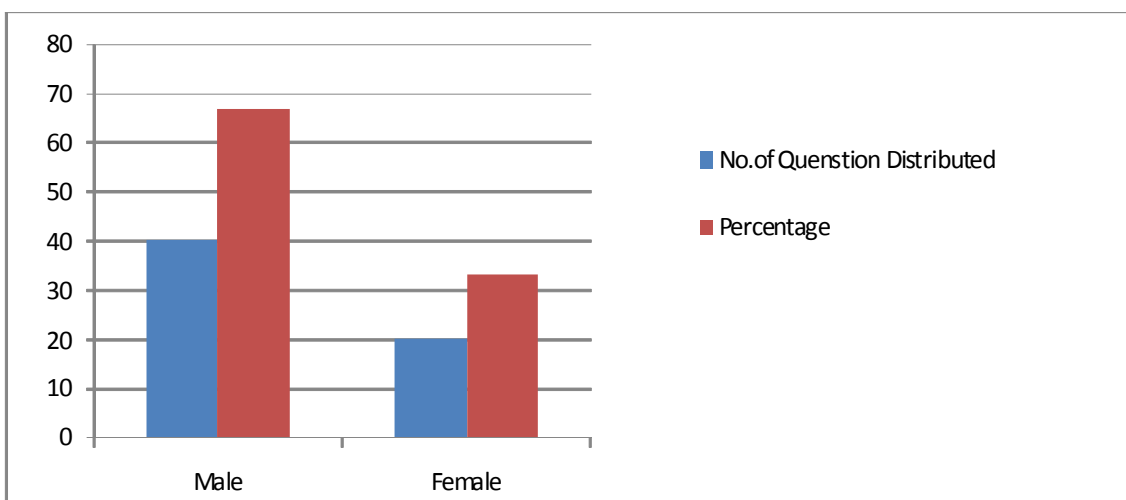


Figure 1: Frequency of distribution of questionnaire



Table 1 and Figure 1 have furnished that a total of 60 (100%) questionnaires were distributed among the undergraduate male and female student users in the Prafulla Chandra College Library. Out of which 40 (67%) students were male and another 20(33%), students were from the female category.

Table 2: Distribution of students'visit to the library

Frequency	No. of Respondent	Percentage (%)
Everyday	12	24%
2 days in a week	27	54%
Once in a week	06	12%
Occasionally	05	10%
Not at all visited	0	0%
Total	50	100%

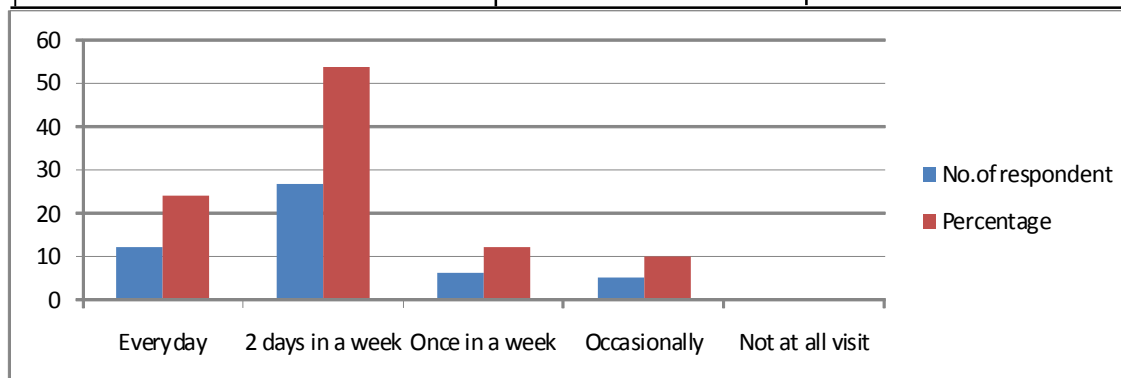


Figure 2: Frequency of library visit by the students.

The frequency of visits to the library by users depends upon the nature of library collections, organization, maintenance, and above all the services and cooperation of the staff in making use of library resources. Table 2 and Figure 2 indicate that most of the students 27(54%) visit the library '2 days in a week' followed by 12(24%) students who visit the library 'Everyday'. 6(12%) students visit 'once in a week' and another 5(10%) students visit the library occasionally.



Table 3: Distribution of average time spent by the students to the library

Average time spent (in-hour/week)	No. of Respondent	Percentage (%)
0 – 1	30	60%
1 – 2	15	30%
2 – 3	4	8%
>3	1	2%
	50	100%

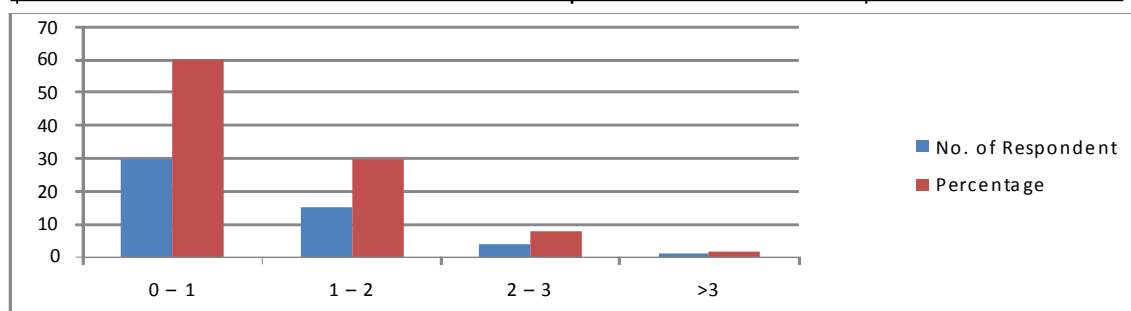


Figure 3: Frequency of average time spent by the students

Table 3 and Figure 3 show that the quantum of time spent by students for reading career guidance in the library per week. It is observed that 60% of students spend less than '1' hour per week for reading career guidance documents while 30% spend '1-2' hours per week, 8% spend '2-3' hours, and only 2% of students spend more than '3' hours per week for reading career guidance in their college library.

Table 4: Distribution of mode of choice of version for reading career guidance information sources

Category/Version	No. of respondent	Percentage (%)
Electronic Version	10	20%
Print Version	40	80%
Total	50	100%

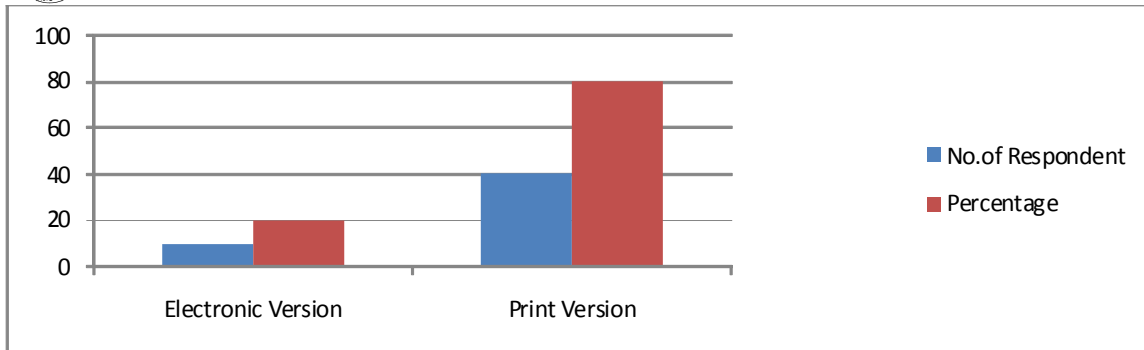


Figure: 4 Frequency of choice of version for reading career guidance information sources

Table : 4 and figure 4 elucidate that the format/version of career guidance documents reading habits preferred by the respondents. The table and graphs describe that most of the students (80%) prefer print version while 10 (20%) students prefer electronic version for reading career guidance sources.

Table 5: Distribution of most favourable choice of subject in the career guidance information sources

Types of Information Resources	No. of respondent	Percentage (%)
Numerical Aptitude	15	30%
Reasoning	10	20%
General Knowledge	10	20%
History	5	10%
English	5	10%
Advertisement	5	10%
Total	50	100%

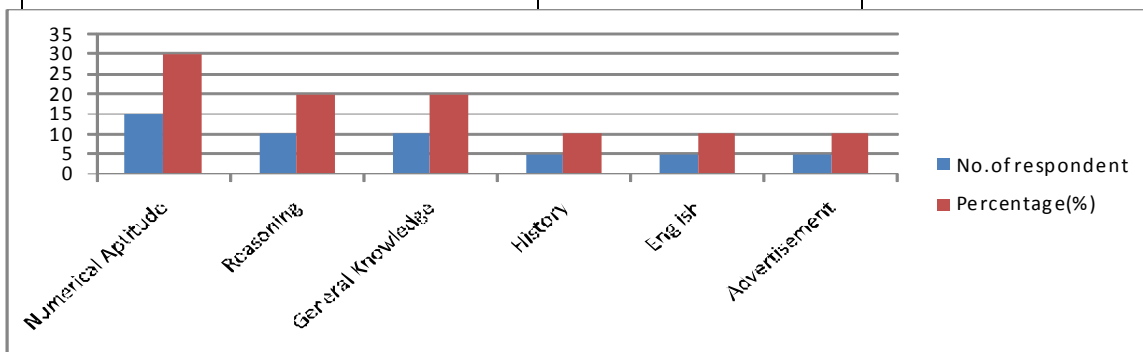


Table 5 and figure 5 show the choice of information in the career guidance information sources preferred by the students. Major (30%) of the respondents preferred Numerical Aptitude related information from railway and banking clerkship recruitment books. 10(20%) students preferred Reasoning related information from various competitive examination books. Another 10(20%) students preferred General Knowledge related information from various current journals and magazines. 5(10%) students preferred History related information from various competitive examination books. Another 5(10%) students preferred English-related information from UPSC books while 5(10%) students preferred Advertisement related information from Employment News.

Table 6 Distribution of purpose of reading career guidance information sources

Purpose	No. of respondent	Percentage (%)
(i) To Gain General Knowledge	15	30%
(ii) For Educational purpose	5	10%
(iii) For spending leisure time	10	20%
(iv) To prepare for Competitive Examination	20	40%
Total	50	100%

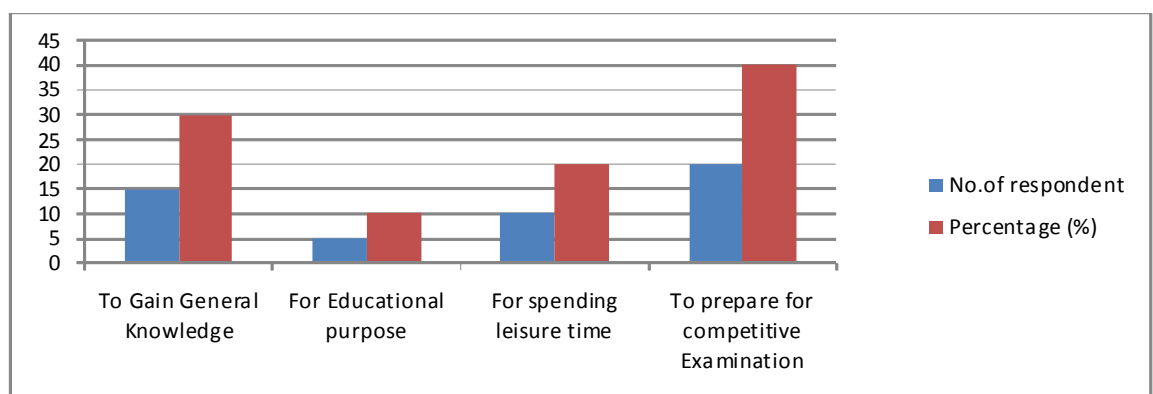


Figure 6: Frequency of purpose of reading career guidance information sources

Students read career guidance information sources for various purposes and especially for preparing for competitive Examinations. Table 6 and Figure 6 depict the

various purposes for which they read career guidance information sources. Among the total 50(100%) respondents, 15(30%) students opined that they read career guidance information sources to gain General Knowledge while 5(10%) students read for educational purposes. Another 10(20%) students read for spending leisure time and 20(40%) students read to prepare for competitive examination.

Table 7: Distribution of choice of benefits of reading career guidance information sources

Benefits	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
(a) Keep abreast with latest development	5	10%
(b) Know Current affairs of the society	15	30%
(c) Helpful to individual educational development	10	20%
(d) Make ready to individual for appearing Competitive Examinations	20	40%
Total	50	100%

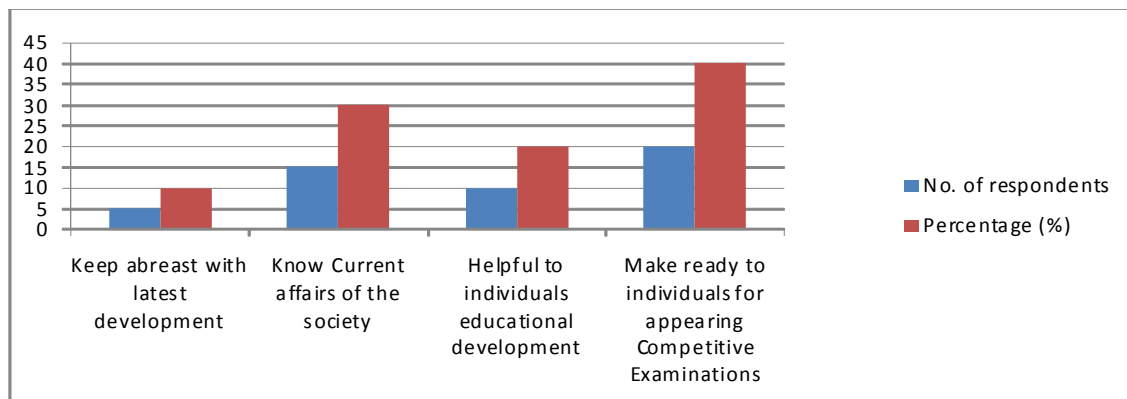


Figure 7: Frequency of choice of benefits of reading career guidance Information Sources

Table 7 and figure 7 furnish the benefits of reading career guidance information sources. Among the 50(100%) respondents, 20(40%) students read career guidance information sources to be benefited to make ready to individuals for appearing in competitive examinations. 15(30%) students read career guid-

ance information sources for knowing the current affairs of the society. 10(20%) students believe that career guidance is helpful to individual educational development and 5(10%) students believe that career guidance information sources have the power to keep abreast with the latest development.

Table 8: Distribution of choice of alternative sources for latest information

Type of Choice	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Online News	21	42%
Social Media	25	50%
Online Mock Test	2	4%
Quiz competition	2	4%
Total	50	100%

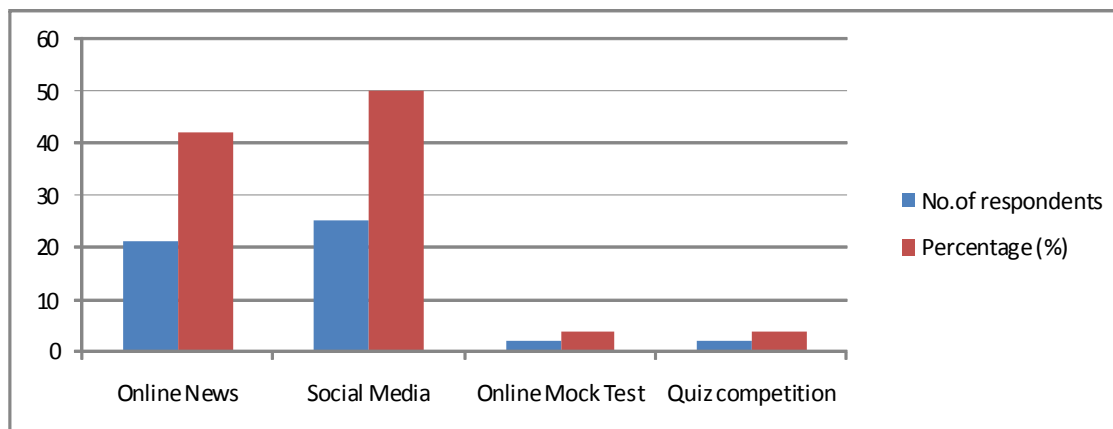


Figure 8: Frequency of choice of alternative sources for current information

Table 8 and figure 8 show that alternative sources for the latest information apart from physical career guidance information sources. Among the total 50(100%) respondents, 25(50%) students prefer social media for the latest information. 20 (42%) students follow online news. 2(4%) students depend on quiz competition and another 2(4%) students pay interest on online mock tests for gathering the latest information.

Table 9: Distribution of satisfaction with overall function of the library

Satisfaction	No. of respondent	Percentage (%)
Excellent (80-100)%	2	4%
Very Good (50-80)%	18	36%
Good (25-50)%	25	50%
Poor (<25)%	5	10%
Total	50	100%

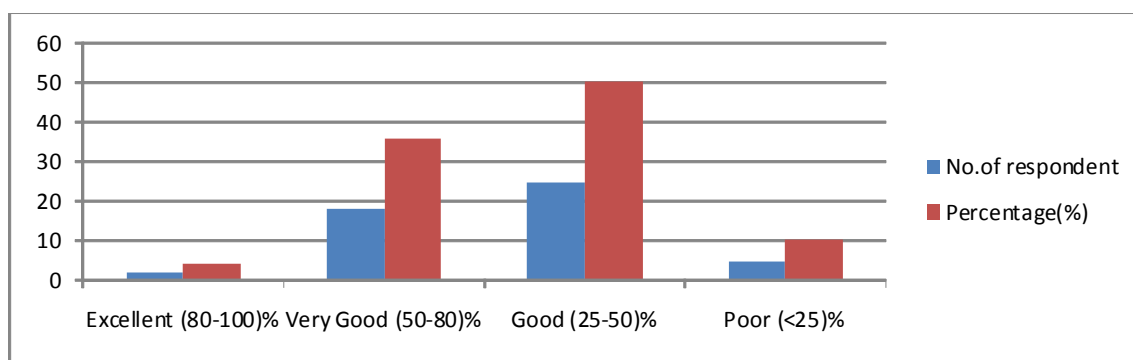


Figure 9: Frequency of satisfaction with overall function of the library.

Table 9 and Figure 9 show that out of 50(100%) respondents, 25(50%) respondents have expressed their satisfaction as good. 18(36%) respondents have expressed their satisfaction as very good. 2(4%) respondents have said excellent only and 5(10%) respondents have said poor satisfaction in respect to the overall function of the library.

7. Findings and results :

The major findings of the present study are as stated below:

- i. The major findings of the present study are as stated below:
- ii. The majority of the students 24(54%) used their college library 2 days a week.
- iii. Most of the students 30(60%) spent less than 1 hour in their college library.
- iv. The print version of career guidance is the most favourable choice 40(80%) concerning the form of career guidance information sources.
- v. Most of the students read career guidance for Numerical Aptitude 15(30%), Reasoning 10(20%), and General Knowledge 10(20%) information.

- vi. The majority of the students 20(40%) read career guidance information sources for appearing in the competitive examination.
- vii. The majority of the students benefited to make ready to the individual for appearing competitive examination through reading career guidance information sources.

8. Conclusion :

The present study shows the reading habit of career guidance information sources of the undergraduate students at Prafulla Chandra College library. Career guidance information sources are very common important sources of information for appearing in competitive examinations. Students are the future of the nation and to be a good citizen. They need to be aware of their career development. They should have enough knowledge about current politics, economy, industry, education system, agriculture system, literature, sports, government policies, and so on at national and international level. In this way, they have to prepare themselves to take responsibility for developing an advanced nation in the coming days. Career guidance information sources reading can help greatly as they provide diverged current information at local, national, and international levels by very low cost and easy success mode. The study shows that students have different purposes of reading career guidance information sources. Though the majority of the students expressed their views that usually they read career guidance information sources only to prepare themselves for appearing in competitive examinations, they also want to access current information of the society.

References:

- Cardoso, P., Savickas, M., & Gonçalves, M. (2020). Facilitating narrative change in career construction counseling journal of career development.
- Sharma, C., & Saini, R. (2019). Newspaper reading habit among the students of university college kurukshetra: a case study. Kurukshetra : Kurukshetra University.
- Arthur, M.B, Khapova, S.N., & Richardson, J. (2018). An intelligent career: taking ownership of your work and your life.
- Simon, K.K. (2016). The effect of student learning strategies on performance and career development: the case of university for development studies. Education Journal, 5(6), 174-182.
- Syahputra, P.A. (2016). Postgraduate students' reading habit and strategies in acquiring vocabulary. Surabaya: Post Graduate of English Department, the State University of Surabaya.