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# EXPLORING READING HABITS AND ATTITUDES AMONG SEMINAR LIBRARIANS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI

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#### Sana Asfreen

Assistant Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

## **A**BSTRACT

This study aims to explore the reading habits and attitudes among seminar librarians at the University of Karachi. Seminar librarians play a crucial role in promoting a reading culture and facilitating access to information resources for students and faculty members. Understanding their reading habits and attitudes can provide insights into their professional development, as well as their impact on the library environment. This research investigates the frequency and types of reading materials seminar librarians engage with, their attitudes towards reading, and the factors that influence their reading habits. The findings contribute to enhancing the role of seminar librarians in promoting reading and developing strategies to cultivate a reading culture within the university community.

### **K**EYWORDS

Reading habits, reading attitudes, seminar librarians, University of Karachi, reading materials, professional development, reading culture, information resources.

# NTRODUCTION

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Seminar librarians at the University of Karachi play a vital role in facilitating access to information resources and promoting a reading culture among students and faculty members. Their reading habits and attitudes significantly influence their professional development and the Understanding librarv environment. their reading habits and attitudes can provide valuable insights into their role as information professionals and their impact on promoting reading within the university community. This study aims to explore the reading habits and attitudes among seminar librarians at the University of Karachi.

Reading habits and attitudes play a crucial role in professional development of seminar librarians and their ability to promote a reading culture within academic institutions. Seminar librarians at the University of Karachi are responsible for providing access to information resources and guiding students and faculty members in their academic pursuits. Understanding the reading habits and attitudes of these librarians is essential in evaluating their effectiveness in fulfilling their roles responsibilities.

This study aims to explore the reading habits and attitudes among seminar librarians at the University of Karachi. By examining their reading preferences, frequency of reading, and factors influencing their reading habits, this research seeks to shed light on the role of reading in the professional lives of seminar librarians. understanding Additionally, their attitudes towards reading can provide insights into their commitment to personal growth and their ability to inspire a reading culture among library users.

The findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of literature on reading habits and attitudes among librarians, with a specific focus on seminar librarians in an academic setting. The research will provide valuable insights into the types of reading materials seminar librarians engage with, their preferences for print or digital resources, and the strategies they employ to reading within the university promote community.

By exploring the reading habits and attitudes of seminar librarians, this study aims to identify for improvement and inform areas development of professional development programs tailored to the specific needs and interests of seminar librarians. The results will

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also help guide efforts to cultivate a reading culture within the University of Karachi by leveraging the expertise and passion of seminar librarians.

Overall, this study seeks to contribute to the understanding of reading habits and attitudes among seminar librarians, providing valuable insights for the enhancement of their professional development and the promotion of reading within the academic library environment.

### **M**ETHOD

A mixed-methods research design will be employed to gather comprehensive data on the reading habits and attitudes of seminar librarians. The study population will consist of seminar librarians working at the University of Karachi. Purposive sampling will be used to ensure a diverse representation of seminar librarians based on factors such as years of experience and academic background.

The research will involve two main data collection methods: surveys and semi-structured interviews. The survey questionnaire will be developed based on existing literature and will cover various aspects of reading habits and attitudes, including the frequency and types of reading materials engaged with, preferred genres, reading preferences (print vs. digital), and factors influencing reading habits. The survey data will be analyzed quantitatively using descriptive statistics and inferential analysis to identify trends and patterns in the responses.

Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with a subset of seminar librarians to gather indepth insights into their reading habits and attitudes. The interviews will explore their personal experiences with reading, motivations for reading, the impact of reading on their professional development, and their strategies for promoting reading among library users. The interview data will be transcribed and analyzed thematically to identify common themes and patterns.

considerations will Ethical be ensured throughout the research process, including obtaining informed consent from participants and maintaining confidentiality of their responses. The study will adhere to ethical guidelines for research involving human participants.

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By employing a mixed-methods approach, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the reading habits and attitudes among seminar librarians at the University of Karachi. The findings will contribute to enhancing the role of seminar librarians in promoting reading and developing strategies to cultivate a reading culture within the university community. The results will also inform professional development programs and initiatives aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of seminar librarians in supporting and encouraging reading among library users.

#### RESULTS

The results of this study revealed valuable insights into the reading habits and attitudes among seminar librarians at the University of Karachi. Quantitative analysis of survey data indicated that the majority of seminar librarians engage in regular reading, with a significant portion reading both professional literatures related to their field and recreational materials for personal enrichment. The most common types of reading materials reported were academic journals, books, and online articles. The survey also highlighted a preference for print materials

among seminar librarians, although a notable proportion also expressed an interest in digital reading.

The qualitative analysis of interview data provided further depth and context to the quantitative findings. The interviews revealed that seminar librarians highly value reading as a means of professional development, staying updated with current trends in librarianship, and expanding their knowledge base. They expressed a strong passion for reading and recognized its importance in their role as information professionals. Additionally, the interviews shed light on the various strategies employed by seminar librarians to promote reading among library users, such as organizing book clubs, recommending reading materials, and conducting reading-related workshops.

### Discussion

The findings of this study highlight the positive reading culture among seminar librarians at the University of Karachi. Their engagement in regular reading, particularly in professional literature, indicates a commitment to their professional growth and staying abreast of

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advancements in the field of librarianship. The preference for print materials aligns with the traditional role of librarians as custodians of physical collections; however, the interest in digital reading highlights the recognition of the evolving landscape of information resources.

The interviews underscored the enthusiasm of seminar librarians in promoting reading among library users. Their proactive approach through book clubs, recommendations, and workshops demonstrates their dedication to fostering a reading culture within the university community. The interviews also revealed the challenges faced by seminar librarians, such as limited resources and time constraints, which may hinder their efforts to promote reading to a greater extent.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the reading habits and attitudes among seminar librarians at the University of Karachi. The findings highlight the active engagement of seminar librarians in reading and their commitment to professional development. Their preference for print materials, combined with an interest in digital reading, suggests a

recognition of the changing landscape of information resources.

The proactive strategies employed by seminar librarians to promote reading indicate their role as catalysts in cultivating a reading culture among library users. However, the challenges they face in terms of resources and time constraints necessitate support and resources from the university administration to further enhance their efforts.

The results of this study can inform the development of professional development programs and initiatives tailored to the specific needs and interests of seminar librarians. The findings also provide a basis for collaborative efforts among seminar librarians and university administrators to create supportive environment that fosters a love for reading among library users.

Further research could explore the reading habits and attitudes of library users at the University of Karachi to gain a comprehensive understanding of the reading culture within the university Additionally, investigating community. impact of seminar librarians' reading promotion activities on library users' reading habits and

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attitudes would provide valuable insights for future initiatives.

Overall, this study contributes to the literature on reading habits and attitudes among seminar librarians and underscores the significance of their role in promoting reading within academic library settings.

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