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Study of Recreational Reading at Tarbiat Modares University

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to identify the recreational reading status of students at the Tarbiat Modares University.

Methodology: This is a descriptive-analytical survey. The statistical population consists of a group of and doctoral students of Tarbiat Modares University in 2019-2020 academic year. The sample size was 203 people. The research questionnaire was based on Müller's questionnaire. To assess the validity of the questionnaire, experts' opinions were used. The questionnaire was randomly distributed among them. The reliability of the questionnaire was calculated using Cronbach's alpha coefficient. It was 0.834%.

Findings: Most of the respondents refer to 13.38% of the recreational resources of virtual networks, and the university has not been able to stimulate interest in recreational reading among students. Among the libraries, their priority is 49.74% of the central library of Tarbiat Modares University, compared to the public library and other libraries. For information from recreational sources, 29.17% of them prefer email. However, most students (65.33%), liked printed format to enjoy recreational reading.

Conclusion: We concluded that the interest in recreational reading is approximately 37.4% on average. Due to the limited time to do class activities, they spend three to four hours a week on recreational reading, and 32.2% studied their favorite subjects.

Value: The study provides original information on the current state of recreational reading of students at the Tarbiat Modares University, which could lead to significant results if used in future library planning.

Key Words: recreational reading, postgraduate students, Tarbiat Modares University Central Library, Iran

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

According to literature, leisure reading, also known as recreational reading, pleasure reading, free voluntary reading, and independent reading, is independent, self-selected reading of a continuous text for a wide range of personal and social purposes. It can take place in and out of school, at any time. Readers select from a wide range of extended texts, including but not exclusive to narrative fiction, nonfiction, picture books, e-books, magazines, social media, blogs, websites, newspapers, comic books, and graphic novels. Leisure reading is generally intrinsically or socially motivated and a pleasurable activity for the reader.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to identify the recreational reading status of students of Tarbiat Modares University. We are going to investigate the recreational reading status of graduate students of Tarbiat Modares University and answering questions about recreational subjects of students' interest, the status of students' access to recreational reading resources, the preferred forms and formats of recreational resources.

Methodology

The method of this research is a descriptive-analytical survey. The statistical population consists of a group of postgraduate students of Tarbiat Modares University of 1398-99. The sample was 203 students. The sample size was determined using Cochran's formula. The research questionnaire was based on Müller's questionnaire. A virtual questionnaire was used to collect data. To assess the validity of the questionnaire, experts' opinions were used. The questionnaire was randomly distributed among them. The reliability of the questionnaire was calculated using Cronbach's alpha coefficient. It was 0.834%. Data analysis was performed using version 22 of the SPSS software.

Findings

The percentage of interest and motivation in recreational reading is shown in Figure 1.

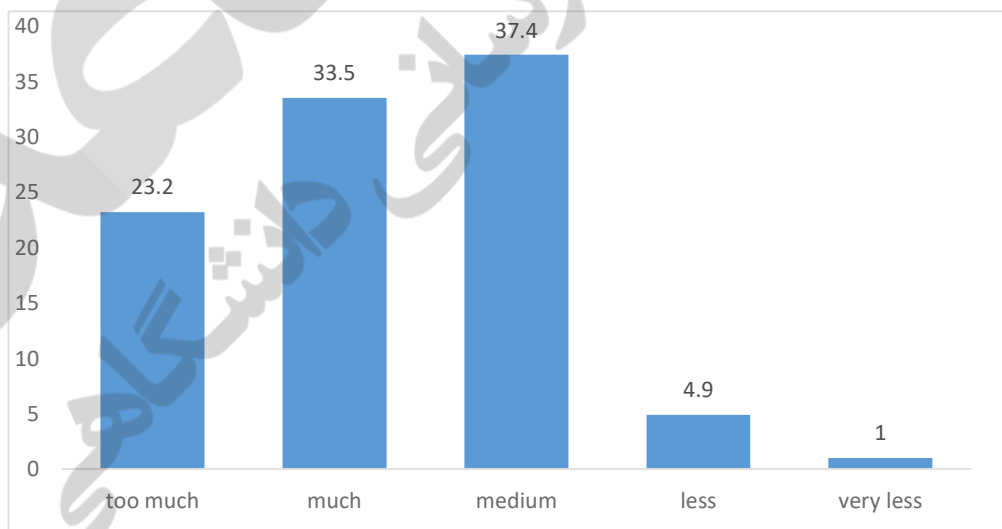


Figure 1: Percentage of interest and motivation in recreational reading

As shown in Figure 1, the level of interest and motivation for recreational reading among students is on average 37.4%. Not having recreational reading (42.45%) is not having enough time due to academic activities.



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We also asked the following question: what is the priority of access to recreational resources? The results are shown in Figure 2.

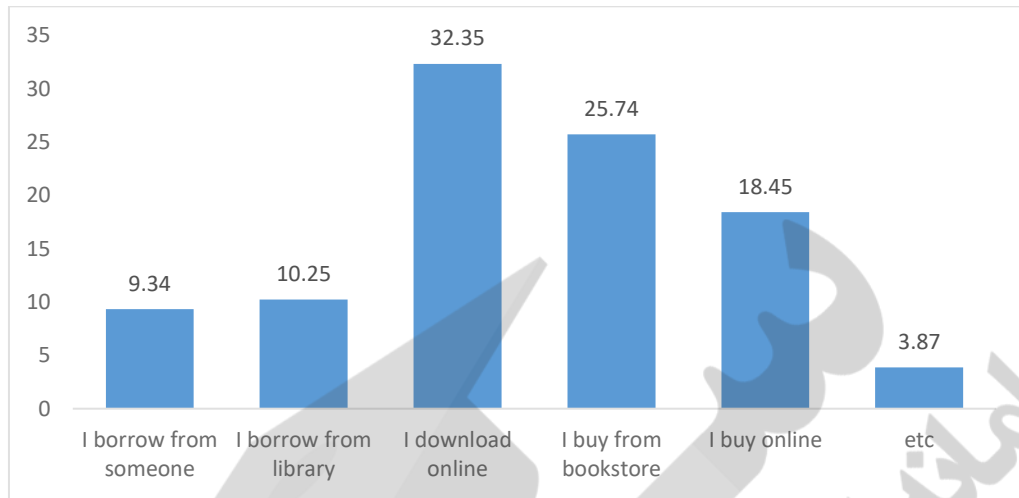


Figure 2: User priorities by access to recreational resources

As shown, the majority of respondents (32.35%) stated that they download their recreational resources for free, and 25.74% buy them from bookstores. Respondents were also asked what websites and programs they use when downloading for free for recreational reading. 45.2% of users obtain their leisure books from Google for easy access and variety of topics and a large amount of new information, and then (21.2%) from popular applications, and foreign sites download for free.

Most of the respondents refer to 13.38% of the recreational resources of virtual networks, and the university has not been able to stimulate interest in the recreational study among students. Among the libraries, their priority is 49.74% of the central library of Tarbiat Modares University, compared to the public library and other libraries.

The users were asked about preferred formats and forms are recreational resources, and the results are shown in Figure 3.

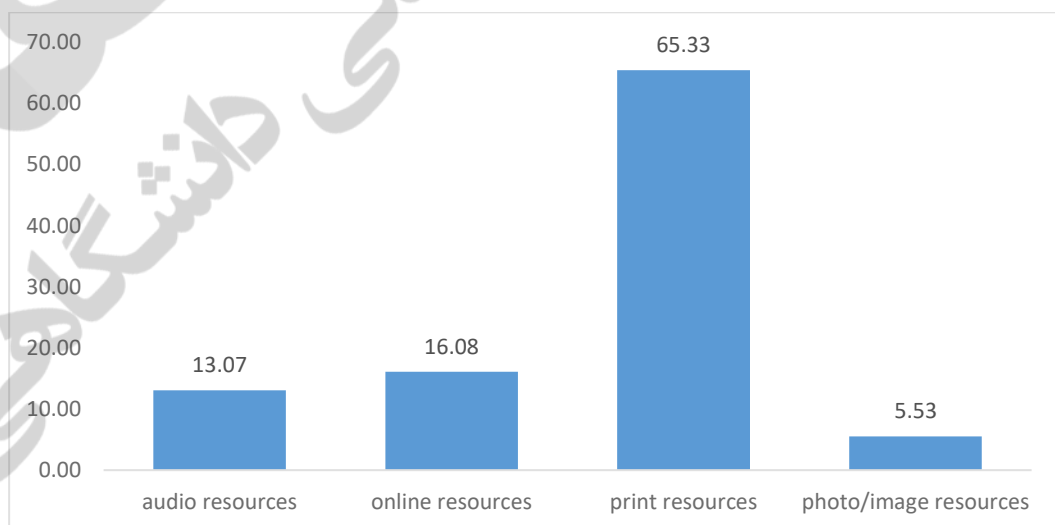


Figure 3: Preferred formats and forms of recreational resources



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As it is seen, the print resources are dominated format for recreational reading among Tarbiat Modares University students. 29.17% of users preferred email for this purpose. However, most students (65.33%), liked printed format to enjoy recreational reading.

Conclusion

We concluded that the interest in recreational reading is approximately 37.4% on average. Due to the limited time to do class activities, they spend three to four hours a week on recreational reading, and 32.2% studied their favorite subjects. The results of this study also showed that free and easy access to some books and other resources in Google had attracted the attention of students, and they provide a significant percentage (32.35%) of leisure resources in this way.

In general, this study shows that the library of Tarbiat Modares University can be effective in expanding and promoting the recreational reading of the students of this university. Also, considering the positive effects of recreational reading on students' academic achievement and personality development, it is appropriate for the University Central Library to put this important issue on its agenda and tasks.

The most important practical suggestion for university libraries, especially Tarbiat Modares Library, is to develop students' recreational reading. It is also necessary for Academic libraries to expand their collection based on users' priorities.

Value

The study provides original information on the current state of recreational reading of students at the Tarbiat Modares University, which could lead to significant results if used in future library planning.

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