

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI
PETRONAS: AN ANALYSIS OF FIRST YEAR AND
FINAL (FOURTH) YEAR STUDENTS**

**HUSSIN BIN IBRAHIM
(2007289068)**

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for the degree of
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Candidate's Declaration

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This dissertation has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

In the event that my thesis be found to violate the conditions mentioned above. I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree to be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

Name of Candidate	HUSSIN BIN IBRAHIM
Candidate's ID No.	2007289068
Program	MASTER IN LIBRARY SCIENCE
Faculty	INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
Title	THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI PETRONAS
Signature of Candidate	H/1356
Date	17/1/2010

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the information needs of mechanical engineering undergraduate students at Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Malaysia. The objectives of the study are to identify the types of information sources needed by the students, their preferred information formats, the importance of and reasons for using certain information sources and the use of various electronic information sources. The methods involve questionnaire to collect quantitative data and descriptive statistical method was applied in the analysis of data. A questionnaire was distributed to a random of 150 respondents at mechanical engineering program, representing 71.4 % of the total population. A total of 110 of the respondents returned the questionnaire. The results of the survey were analyzed using SPSS version 11. The findings indicate that, 82.7% of the respondents considered lecture notes and textbooks as the “most preferred” types of information. The majority of the respondents, (40%) ‘sometimes’ used OPAC to access information; majority of the respondents (40.9% or 45) ‘seldom’ need help when using the university library; majority of the respondents 64.5% (71) have been given only 1 session on library use. Recommendations are made for the library to conduct regular surveys of user needs at undergraduate level, develop course materials component on the UTP Library website, extend and develop the information assistance provided as well as the information skills program and ensure appropriate and consistent branding of UTP Library services. The researcher hopes that the findings of this study will contribute positively towards excellent library services. The UTP Library must transform itself to an *Information Cyber*. Such a centre would operate as a partner in teaching, learning and research, a classroom for information literacy and information technology skills, an e-solution to learning needs and the provider of research solutions. Findings of this study are useful for improving library services to students.

Keywords: *Information needs, Information seeking, Information use, Information sources, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Engineering students*

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