

INFORMATION SEARCHING SKILLS AMONG MALAYSIAN
YOUTH: THE CASE OF PROGRAM LATIHAN KHIDMAT
NEGARA (PLKN) TRAINEES IN SELANGOR



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Contents

1. Letter of Report Submission1

2. Letter of Offer (Research Grant).....2

3. Acknowledgements3

4. Report4

 4.1 Proposed Executive Summary4

 4.2 Enhanced Executive Summary5

 4.3 Introduction6

 4.4 Brief Literature Review8

 4.5 Methodology10

 4.6 Results and Discussion13

 4.7 Conclusion and Recommendation.....21

 4.8 References/Bibliography24

5. Appendix26

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4.2 Enhanced Executive Summary

This paper concerns the area of information searching skills using ICT among Program Latihan Khidmat Negara (PLKN) trainees. Trainees were studied to determine their strengths and weaknesses in terms of their information searching skills. In general, it was found that students had limited skills in the area of searching information. The students were able to plan their searchers but lack the success in executing them because insufficient skills-based training. Based on these findings recommendations were proposed to help develop information searching skills and incorporate their delivery when they enter the higher education.

Keywords: *Information searching, information searching skills, information skills, information literacy, information communication and technology.*

4.3 Introduction

An advance of technology has given great effect on human life. This has become challenging topic of debate among social scientist and others. Educationist is also making these discussions especially in dissemination and retrieving information. Due to the increase of application of computer, the information become easier to access and disseminate. People need information to satisfy their needs, for them to survive in the current technology. Globally there are four barriers that can complicate or can even prevent successful access to information: these are economic, political, affective or cognitive (Boekhorst, 2003). In fact, information is considered as valuable because it becomes important item or product in the daily life.

Now without information, we are left behind in many aspects. There are several reasons that make information valuable such as: some information is very accurate and we cannot denied its authenticity; it is free from error and can be verified, some information contains all important facts that can be used as an evidence for a certain incident occurred in the future; can be used for a variety purpose such as culture, leisure, work, research and everyday life; it is up- to-date and very timely to the nature, so it can be a very reliable references for a certain research or studies.

Because of these reasons, sometimes some people are willing to get no matter how much money they have to spend. This kind of information can help to achieve the target, mission and vision of our life. People have to recognize their need for information and they need knowledge and skills to satisfy their needs. Over the ages, more knowledge and skill are needed due to the "informatisation" process (Boekhorst, 2001).

Information is all around us in today's society, such as in academic studies, workplace or in our personal lives. The amount of information is available over the Internet, news, newspaper, magazines and books are overwhelming. All this information comes in filtered and unfiltered formats including texts, images graphics, charts, graphs, videos and audios. In today's information age, many people will attempt to retrieve needed information without the involvement of an intermediary. Most have little experience with basic techniques and as a result, are neither searching efficiency nor effectively. Searching is a skill that is more difficult to master (Bell, 1993).

Nowadays, students are surrounded with Web page of information, CD- ROMs with interactive programs, books, magazines, and other multimedia products. Accessing information has become increasingly important to the students. Browsing, searching and navigating online have become essential skills for all students. The students need information