

**NEGATIVE IMPACT OF ONLINE RESOURCES ON RESEARCH WRITING
FROM TEACHERS' AND STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE, AT KING KHALID
UNIVERSITY: A CASE STUDY OF 4TH YEAR STUDENTS, IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ARTS, KING KHALID
UNIVERSITY, TANUMAH BRANCH**

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ABSTRACT: *This study aims at investigating the negative impact of online resources on research writing from teachers' and students' perspective. The study had implemented both teachers' questionnaire and the interview which took place with students as instruments for collecting the data of this study. The questionnaire has been distributed to the teachers of English at King Khalid University (50 teachers); while, the interview was done in three steps: firstly, the researcher read each question for the interviewer clearly and several times, and allotted sufficient time for the participant to provide an answer. Secondly, the researchers were taking notes about the participants' responses during the interview time. Thirdly, a comparison was made between the participants' answers to reach out findings. The sample of the study was (15 teachers) and (15 students). The study has come out with the following findings: firstly, online resources have affected the process of research writhing negatively a matter that made the quality and reliability of research as something that people who do researches do not provide it any consideration. Secondly, researchers should not be relying more on the internet as a resource of getting information. Thirdly, students prefer using the online resources not because it saves time but because many people do not want to go and search in the library.*

KEYWORDS: online resources, research writing, teachers', students, king Khalid University, Tanumah

INTRODUCTION

The 20th century is known as the century of technology pounce that almost controls everything, and education and learning in particular. At the level of research and liberties for example, researchers have become less interested going to the library because what they need to search and write can be done in a few seconds on the internet a matter that made plagiarism more prevalent.

In this regard, Cloud (1989) believes that the most effective communication resource is the internet if it will be used properly. He also adds, the internet became part of our daily life, and has become one of the important tools in the education, and technology helps transfer information between different points therefore; this satiation makes the internet a very powerful information system. People in different age groups and jobs, students and academicians who do scientific research, and prepare projects prefer using the internet because it is the easiest and

the fastest way of accessing necessary information. The problem occurs when some researchers do not give other people their credits when they take their works and make it their own.

Likewise, Al-Majali (2007) reports that the word technology consists of two parts (Techno) means application, art or skill, and (Logy) means science and learning. Thus, the linguistic meaning of the word technology is: the methods and tools that a society has developed in order to facilitate the solution of its practical problems and to provide the necessary needs for the community. He adds that the use of technology in all areas of life increases risks, threats, and crimes associated with the use of this technique.

Statement of the study

Research writing is considered the most important tool for developing and improving societies for a better life in its different domains. New discoveries and innovations in every now and then are due to the contributions of scientific research. Many researchers today do research in illegal ways; although, it is well known that taking other people works without giving them credits is considered plagiarism. Unfortunately, many researchers nowadays misuse the online resources, and make it a means of stealing other peoples' work. The current study is trying to find out how technology has negatively affected the process of research writing.

Objectives of the study

The current study aims to.

- Find out the negative impact of online resources on research writing.
- Find out the reasons behind students' less interest about approaching the traditional library.

Questions of the study

The study raises the following questions.

- Do online resources have a negative impact on research writing?
- Do students have an interest towards the use of traditional library?

Assumptions of the study

The study assumes the following.

- Online resources have negative impact on research writing.
- Students have less interest about going to the library.

Significance of the study

The current study aims to shed light on the misuse of online resources and its effect on research writing. Moreover, the study is trying to raise the awareness of the researchers and all those involved in this area about the importance role of the library in research writing, and the benefits that everyone could have when going and search in the library. Finally, the study is also trying to draw the attention of researchers and students about getting other peoples' works illegally and how it affects their works.

Delimitation of the study

The current study was limited to the negative impact of online resources on research writing and how that negativity has an effect on researchers' works.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This part of the research introduced the review of literature related to the current study.

Definition of technology and research

Wheelwright (19661, p. 328) explains the meaning of the term technology as:

"It comes from the Greek technologia, which refers to the systematic treatment of an art (or craft), and the root techne combines the meanings of an art and a technique, involving both a knowledge of the relevant principles and an ability to achieve the appropriate results."

On the other hand, DHHS (from 45 CFR 46.102) defines the research as:

"A systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Activities which meet this definition constitute research for purposes of this policy, whether or not they are conducted or supported under a program which is considered research for other purposes. For example, some demonstration and service programs may include research activities."

Risks of using technology in research writing

Acikalin (2009) argues that the internet and technology should be used with care and consideration. He continues to add that the ease of using technology and accessing internet sources creates a sort of dependence on prepared information, and this dilemma in turn might have a negative influence regarding the development of scientific research.

Drawbacks of using technology

Sharples et al (2008) argue that cheating is a risk that the use of the internet in the school poses to young people where it is easy for them to get out the information needed. As a comment on the above point, students at school's level should study about plagiarism and citation because that can help them avoid getting other peoples' work in an illegal way in the future. As well, Tuvér and Blomqvist (2009) mention that students might not know that it is not allowed to copy paste information from the internet.

Consequently, Ceulemans (2012) believes that technology must have negative consequences is so widespread that some researchers have started to focus on why research has not been to find the expected result although not factually known, and there are a few thoughts on why research has not empirically shown the face-to-face communication abilities to have suffered significantly from the increase in technology.

Technology and plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined according to Harvard University (2007, p.2) as *"the theft of someone else's ideas and work. Whether a student copies verbatim or simply rephrases the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source."*

For instance, Roberts (1995) discusses the advent of the technology and how it made plagiarism by students not only easier, but also, easier to be detected. Students exert no efforts to steal from online sources and make it their own works although; their plagiarism can easily be detected. Statistics in this area tend to vary a little depending upon the methods used for their collection and calculation, but whether the percentage of students self-reporting plagiarism is 35 percent in one survey, or 45 percent in another. He also adds that plagiarizing other peoples'

works using the technology as an aid, is considered as a crime committed by a poor unfortunate few with questionable morals; rather, it is a crime committed by a significant number of students, perhaps the majority at one time or another.

Researchers and students use the technology to plagiarize from the online for several reasons as reported by the University of Alabama in Huntsville (2007):

1. Both researchers and students lack to the research skills.
2. They do not know how to make citation from different sources.
3. They lack of both writing skills and vocabulary.
4. They often have specific target dreaming to reach which is mainly related to cultural factors.

How technology eases the process of plagiarizing and cheating?

Gurak (2001) believes that the rapid development of the internet and technology helped negatively in increasing the process of copying sections or the whole work of others. Supporting the same point, both James and McInnes (2001) report that plagiarism, as well as cheating via using technologies is increasing in universities.

Research writing and Electronic media

Ellery (2008) argues that the use of internet and technology and other forms of electronic communication like social media can lead to plagiarism which has been increased every day. She also believes that the ease of access to information by using those electronic sources is playing a big role in increasing students' plagiarism. Consequently, Selwyn (2008) notes that using the advanced technology to print sources of others and add it to your own research is considered a legal crime. Also, Lathrop, et al., (2000) argues that students of today enjoy the challenge of discovering what they can accomplish with each new high-tech toy, and unfortunately, many people are quick to see the possibilities of using the new technologies to cheat on tests and homework or even when writing a research.

Additionally, Fritz (1999) reports that students copying from the many online sources, or paper mills, which offer thousands of reports and term papers on almost any topic a matter that undoubtedly influences the performance and the final output of researchers and students' work.

Technology and richness

It is undeniable fact that technology has made everything in hand in all aspects of life, although; it has a negative usage. People who have financial facilities own the latest electronic devices which aid them to accomplish their works in less time. For example, Anupam (2008) believes that technology can be used as a tool to store and download all sorts of information. Moreover, students can use technology to send text messages to others who have such devices and ask them the answer to some questions.

Traditional library in the age of technology

Curl (2007, p.19) states in a report about the use of academic library that

"Traditionally, the library has been seen as the heart of the academic institution, and a place that plays an important role to every researcher, teachers, and students as well. Traditionally, too, researchers as well as students visit the library regularly, consulted the contents of its shelves, talked to library staff, filled in forms to order books or articles from that library or one in another institution, and spend time browsing, reading and working within its walls".

Commenting on the above mentioned is that many researchers and students depend a lot on using online sources because it is always available to use it and at any time. Some places lack to the network facilities, and some other places do not even use it due to its expensive coast.

Unfortunately, even those who have an access to the internet do not use it properly. In other words, they consider it a tool to copying and download other people work and make it their own. It is one of the worst roles of e-library that it eases the process of cheating and plagiarism. Furthermore, Bates (2002) claims that the digital environment has radically changed the way researchers and students find information for their researches and articles. Such radical change has negatively affected the role of traditional library where hard copies of books, references, magazines, forums, and articles have become obsolete at the age of technology.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This part of research introduced the instrument of data collection, and how it was analyzed, the population of the study, and sample of the study as well.

Method of collecting data

The researchers used both the qualitative and quantitative method of research to gather the data of the study. Merriam (2009, p.13) defines the qualitative quantitative method of research as *"understanding the meaning people have constructed, that is, how people make sense of their world and the experiences they have in the world."*

Quantitative and qualitative method of research

Teacher's Questionnaire

The first instrument of data collection was the teacher's questionnaire which was distributed to (15) teachers of English language at King Khalid University. According to Oppenhseim (1992), a questionnaire is simply a 'tool' for collecting and recording data about a particular issue of interest. The researchers used Likert 5-point scale (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree). The study introduced two hypotheses and on the basis of those hypotheses the questionnaire was built.

The interview

Kvale (1996, p. 14) defines interviews as *"an interchange of views between two or more people on a topic of mutual interest, sees the centrality of human interaction for knowledge production, and emphasizes the social situation of research data."*

As well, Parkinson and Drislane (2011) define qualitative method of research as a research using methods such as participant observation or case studies which result in a narrative, descriptive account of a setting or practice. The researchers conducted the interview with (15) students of grade four in the department of English language, College of Science and Arts, King Khalid University, Tanumah Branch.

Sample of the study

The sample of this study was taken exclusively from the teachers of English language at King Khalid University, and students of level four, in the Department of English Language, College of Science and Arts, King Khalid University, Tanumah Branch. The sample was (15) students who were interviewed by the researchers. The interview was (5) questions where the students answered the questions individually, whereas; and the questionnaire which has been distributed to 50 teachers of English language.

Analysis of the interview

This part of the study introduced the analysis of the questions of the interview, and discussion of the results too.

Analysis and Discussion of the Questionnaire

In this part the analysis of the data gathered by the research instruments is presented. Data gathered via questionnaire was processed and analyzed through the IBM SPSS Statistics Version 22 (Corp., 2013). The mean and standard deviation are used to summarize the level of agreement of the participants. Items within each dimension are measured using 5-point Likert scale, which are interpreted as follows: *Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree*.

Tables and figures presented in this study are only presenting the highest results and agreement percentages of the questionnaire analysis and they have been selected by the researchers to represent this study.

Table (4.1)

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	1	2.0
Neutral	1	2.0
Agree	23	46.9
Strongly Agree	24	49.0
Total	49	100.0

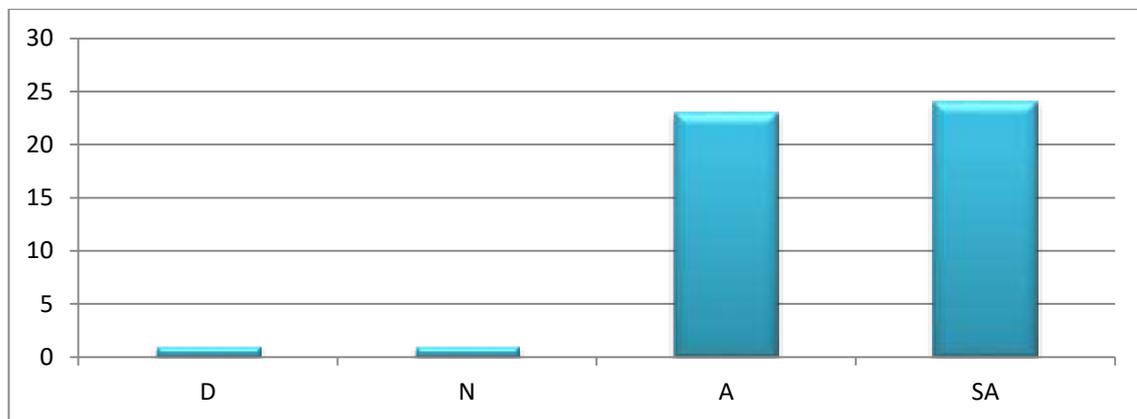


Figure (4.1) shows the distribution of the responses provided by the participants about the statement "**Technology has a negative impact on the process of research writing**" as it appears on the table (4.1) that (95.9%) of the participants agreed upon the former statement. Such result indicates that online resources have affected the process of research writhing negatively a matter that made the quality and reliability of research as something that people who do researches do not provide it any consideration.

Table (4.2)

Responses	Frequency	Percent
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Neutral	5	10.4
Agree	19	39.6
Strongly Agree	24	50.0
Total	48	100.0

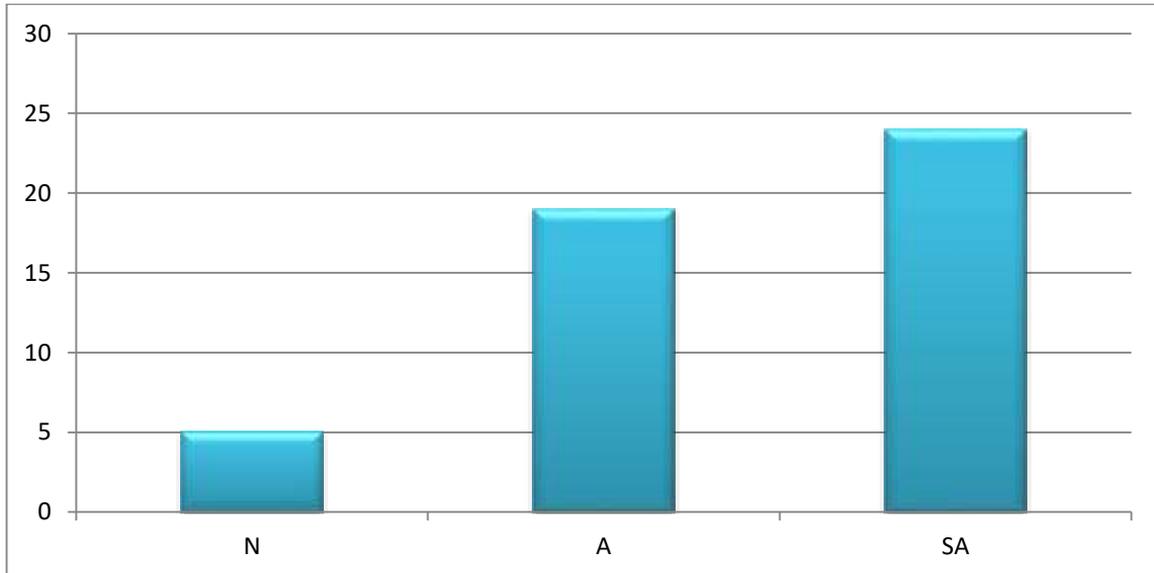


Figure (4.2) shows the distribution of numbers of the responses about the statement "**The use of online resources reduces the quality and reliability of research writing**". As it is presented in table (4.2) that (89.6%) the participants agreed at the above statement. This large number of agreement reflects the necessity of not relying more on the internet as a resource of getting information.

Table (4.3)

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	2	4.3
Disagree	2	4.3
Neutral	5	10.9
Agree	22	47.8
Strongly Agree	15	32.6
Total	46	100.0

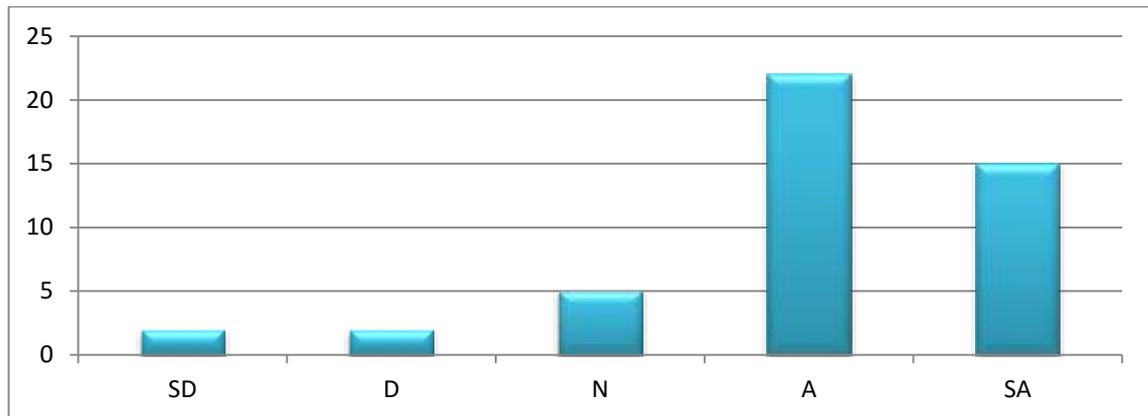


Figure (4.3) shows the number of response provided by the participants about the statement **"Online resources encourage researchers to plagiarize the work of others "**. As presented in table (4.3) that (80.4%) of the participants agreed onto the above statement. This result proves that online resources motivate the researchers go and take other people's work without getting a permission.

Table (4.4)

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	1	2.1
Neutral	2	4.2
Agree	22	45.8
Strongly Agree	23	47.9
Total	48	100.0

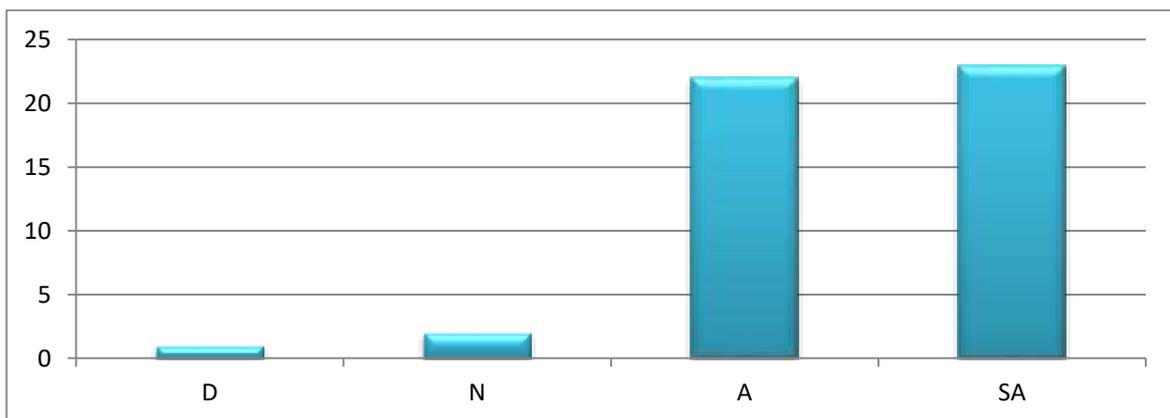


Figure (4.4) shows the number of the responses about the statement **"Students rarely approach the traditional library"** in which (93.7%) of the participants agreed upon the above statement as shown in table (4.4). Such high agreement percentage proves that students have no desire towards approaching the traditional library when writing a research.

Table (4.5)

	Frequency	Percent
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Responses		
Strongly Disagree	1	2.2
Disagree	2	4.3
Neutral	5	10.9
Agree	13	28.3
Strongly Agree	25	54.3
Total	46	100.0

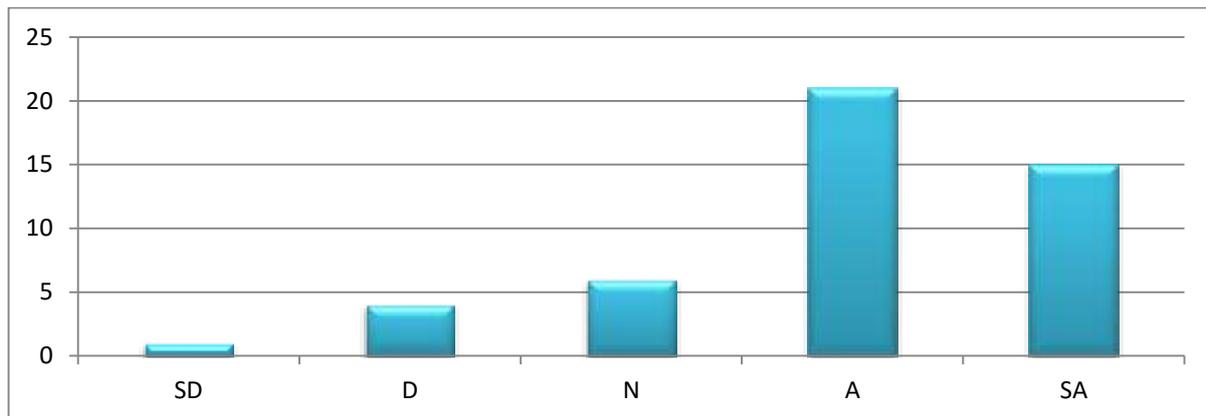


Figure (4.5) shows the distribution of responses about "**Traditional library is considered a waste of time**". As it is shown in table (4.6) that the approval rate attributed to this statement reached (82.6%). Such high result proves that researchers prefer using the online resources not because it saves time but because many people do not want to go and search in the library a way that made from the traditional library a place of consuming time.

Process of the interview analysis

The analysis was done in three steps. Firstly, the researcher read each question for the interviewer very clearly, and allotted sufficient time for the participant to provide his answer. Secondly, the researcher was taking notes about the participants' responses. Thirdly, a comparison was made between the participants' answers with the purpose of increasing the researcher's understanding of the meaning provided by the participants.

Analysis of the participants' responses

When you are asked to do a research, what sources do you depend on to collect the research data?

All participants provided almost similar answer for the above question. They said, "They usually go to the internet, and just put what is required in the search engine and download what they are looking for". This response proves that students get information from different online sources which might doubt the authenticity of that information they used.

Do you go and search in college library or any other libraries outside?

The participants provided different answers for the above question. Three of the participants said, "They rarely go to the college library and study what they were asked to do". While the other participants believe, "They usually use their mobiles and their personal computers to seek

the information about the topic of research". The responses about the question above proved that most of the participants rarely go to the college library.

When did you last go to the college library?

Participants provided different viewpoints concerning the above question. Four of the participants said, "The library is not a suitable place where they can get what they look for". In other words, those four participants do not remember the last time they visited the college library. The rest of the participants expressed their point of view about the importance of the library in the whole process of learning, and the process of research in particular. Based on the above, it is clear that students do not visit the library a lot to do their work of research.

Do online resources have an impact on research writing?

Almost, all the participants agreed unanimously upon the impact of technology on both research process and traditional library. Students do not go to college library to search information for their researches; instead, they just go to the internet and download what they need. The problem appears when it comes to citation of references, and here the active role of traditional library also appears. The researchers believe that going to the library and using hard copies of books and references will help the researchers to learn more about the process of citing references and books which they cannot find in the online sources.

Do you have an interest toward the traditional library?

Unfortunately, most of the participants considered going to the library as a waste of time. On the other hand, they do everything through their mobile phones a matter that adversely affected the research process. Moreover, it eases the process of cheating by easily copying other people works.

Summary of Findings, Recommendations, and Suggestions

This part of the research introduced conclusion, the summary of findings, recommendations, and suggestions for further studies.

Findings of the study

This study has reached out the following results

1. Online resources have affected the process of research writhing negatively a matter that made the quality and reliability of research as something that people who do researches do not provide it any consideration.
2. Researchers should not be relying more on the internet as a resource of getting information.
3. Online resources encourage the researchers go and take other people's work without getting a permission.
4. Students have no desire towards approaching the traditional library when writing a research.
5. Students prefer using the online resources not because it saves time but because many people do not want to go and search in the library.
6. Not all the sources of online information are authentic.
7. The availability of information on the internet affects negatively on traditional libraries and the research process.

8. Students rarely go to the college library, and they usually use inauthentic information from the internet.
9. The development in technology has affected negatively on the process of research writing.
10. Students do not have desire to go the college library, and also they lack the knowledge of citing references.

Recommendations of the study

The study recommends the following

1. Students should be aware of the importance of the library in their study in general, and the scientific research in particular.
2. Students should study more about research methodologies, and the criteria of a good research.
3. Students should be told where to get authentic information for their researches.

Suggestions for further studies

The study suggests the following

1. A research study should be done on the authenticity of online information and its effect on research writing.
2. Another research study should be done in the area of plagiarism and cheating referring to their impact on research writing.

CONCLUSION

The current study investigates the negative impact of technology on scientific research. The conclusion reached by the study is not all the sources of online information are authentic, the availability of information in the internet affects negatively on traditional libraries and the research process, students rarely go to the college library, and they only used inauthentic information from the internet. The development of technology has affected negatively on the process of scientific research, students do not have an interest to go the college library, and also they lack the knowledge of citation.

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