

Information sources used by undergraduates; a citation analysis of undergraduate theses submitted to the University of the Visual and Performing Arts

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A citation analysis was carried out based on the citations of theses submitted by undergraduates of university of the Visual and Performing Arts (UVPA) in year 2014. The objectives of study were to ascertain which types of information sources are used by the UVPA undergraduates to fulfil their research needs. In addition, frequently used bibliographic forms of information sources and their subject coverage, language wise distribution, geographical coverage and age of cited materials were also considered.

The analysis covered 60 undergraduate theses and 2916 citations. Results of the study revealed that books was the preferred information medium of UVPA undergraduates. They most frequently used text based

Printed format (73%). According to the results, a majority of the UVPA undergraduates used Sinhala language materials (74%) and local publications (70%). It is also observed that 35.45% of cited materials had been published during the period of year 1976–2000. Folklore was the most cited subject discipline.

The results of this study could be used as a tool for the collection development in the UVPA library.

Keywords: citation analysis; information sources; information needs; aesthetic studies research; collection development