

Impact of IBDP Libraries on Student Academic Performance: A Survey of IB Libraries in India

Rajendra Singh*
Librarian

MIT Vishwashanti Gurukul World School, Pune

&

Pravish Prakash
Associate Professor,

Department of Library Science, Lucknow University, Lucknow.

Abstract

In this study, we have looked at how libraries in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) help students with academic performance, particularly in India. IBDP Libraries are very important in creating a strong academic environment by helping the students access and share knowledge. Their research indicated that the more students use the library, the more resources are available, and the more librarians can tell them what to do, the better the students do academically. All of the IBDP libraries contain print books, e-books, journals, databases as well as multimedia resources in order to broaden the scope of learning by supporting the curriculum. They are particularly useful for research projects such as extended essays, Theory of Knowledge (TOK) assignments, and exam preparation. The results also underscore how learning culture must be developed via events (readers' clubs, literature events, and skill workshops), which foster an educational environment. Students can develop important skills while studying because of libraries, such as evaluating information sources, citing properly, and improving critical thinking skills and research. On the whole, it highlights the importance of the IBDP library in facilitating students' academic success. This seeks a rise in library funding and the development of library services to cope with the changing need for education.

Keywords: International Baccalaureate, Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge, Research, Citation, Academic Integrity, IBDP Libraries.

Introduction

Libraries in the IBDP schools are hubs of knowledge acquisition and dissemination in the academic framework. The library and its core functions help build a scholastic atmosphere in IB institutions. The library's resources, guidance, and participation influence students' performance. With the frequency of use, availability of materials, library's guiding role, and support from management, several factors highlight the impact of libraries on IBDP student

* Corresponding Author: Rajendra Singh

Email: rajendrasingh1234@gmail.com

Received 10 Feb. 2025; Accepted 21 March. 2025. Available online: 30 March. 2025.

Published by SAFE. (Society for Academic Facilitation and Extension)

[This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)



achievement through different channels. Several studies have signaled the library as the main source of resources for academic entities, but others indicate that while the information and resource requirements are important, the preferences of IB students may not directly relate to the Libraries.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) libraries support curriculum and student learning by providing tailored resources and services. These libraries enhance students' academic performance in many ways, mainly focusing on access to resources using diverse materials such as print books, e-books, journals, databases, and multimedia. Libraries in IBDP Schools are premier departments in support of the IBDP curriculum: subject-specific materials, extended essay resources, and Theory of Knowledge materials while playing a candid role in research, topic exploration, and exam preparation. Above all, Fostering a Culture of Learning is the core area of libraries through various means, for example, Reading clubs and literary events, Librarian support: resource recommendations, teacher collaboration, and skill workshops, International Book Day, student-led reviews, and cross-curricular projects. In vast information world searching for reliable information from a variety of sources and using them in the right way and creating information literacy skills are the most sought field in which libraries foster learning by Guidance on source evaluation and citation methods and thus Benefits to school community in the improved research capabilities, critical thinking, and university preparation.

Literature Review

1. Tilke and Anthony elucidated numerous significant aspects pertaining to the contributions of IB Libraries to students' academic performance. According to Tilke, International Baccalaureate school libraries function as an instrument in shaping students' futures by advocating the core philosophy of the IB philosopher. Adhering to the framework established by the IB philosopher, libraries facilitate the innovation of spaces such as learning commons and maker spaces, emphasizing the significance of school libraries and librarians in providing pertinent services and facilities, not only in physical and digital spaces but also in shaping the psychological and philosophical environments of schools. This study raises concerns regarding the inconsistent identification of the roles of libraries and librarians in IB documentation, which may impede the effective integration of library resources in supporting IB learning.

This paper highlighted outdated perspectives of teachers and principals regarding school libraries that can hinder the recognition of library values in the context of IB. Frequently, this affects library utilization in IB programs. This research indicates a need for further exploration

of how school libraries can adapt to meet the evolving educational needs of IB students, particularly in terms of inquiry-based learning and academic integrity. The absence of a definitive model for what an IB library should encompass presents a gap in understanding how libraries can effectively support IB curriculum and student learning. This study suggests that additional empirical research is necessary to assess the impact of library services on student outcomes in IB programs, which remains an under-explored area. (Tilke, 2021)

2. In a paper, Library Impact Practice Brief Library Outreach, Amanda Hornby and Emillie Vebancic noted a few points of concern such as Student Success, Role of Academic Libraries, Impacts of Services and collection, the importance of equity and inclusion, and critical assessment practices. Student Success was defined here as academic achievement, timely graduation, and institutional support. We try to evaluate to what level universities are effective at improving student success. Several metrics are adopted to measure success including the graduation rates, standardized test scores, and student feedback. Establishing study groups was pointed out by the authors to draw attention to the learning among the students. Evaluation of the impact of library services on academic performance can be more accurately determined if there is a co relationship between increased library utilization and higher academic performance. The text squarely lands us in the conversation on equity and inclusion when evaluating student success. It furthers equal chances of success for a variety of student groups. Library and school programmes must determine what advantages are available for all students. For example, if one of the services at a library does not receive as much use as they do from particular demographics, something may have to be done to level the playing field for all students. Critical assessment involves a comprehensive assessment of current practices and a readiness to make necessary improvements. Part of this is extending the application of the desired outcomes to situations in libraries and in education, evaluating how services fit into supporting student success across all demographic groups. To do this it requires confronting difficult questions about library service beneficiaries and possible exclusion. For instance, a library that only has English resources may not provide for all non-English speaking students. This report brings attention to the critical importance of knowledge and measurement of student success in higher education, the role played by academic libraries in supporting this success, and the need for equity and inclusion in the work. Through the collaboration and review of the practices libraries and educational institutions can better support all students in reaching their academic goals.(Hornby et al., 2021)

3. In the study. “The Impact of the Academic Library on Students' Success, in Their Own Words” students' perceptions are an important thought. The study revealed that libraries play a multifaceted role beyond just GPA and at the same time demographics are important attributes. The different demographic aspects such as class, race and program influence how scholars consider the contribution of libraries in their academic Journey. The study distilled the thought that students have varied opinions and experiences regarding services and resources of the library. However, study also suggested that more qualitative research to explore how students define success and the library's impact as students' perceptions can differ broadly among various student demographics. (De Groote & Scoulas, 2022).

In another study, "The Library's Impact on University Students' Academic Success and Learning," the authors examine the influence of library usage on student academic performance. The study's findings indicated a positive correlation between library visits and grade point average (GPA). Students value libraries for their conducive environment for concentration and access to resources. Interestingly, the study found a negative correlation between library space satisfaction and GPA; however, the researchers suggested that further investigation is necessary regarding the implications of library visits on academic performance. The importance of library resource utilization was emphasized. Students value both quiet study areas and collaborative spaces. Notably, the study proposed that library staff can enhance their comprehension of students' needs.

4. In the study "Conceptualizing the Importance of Libraries in Student Academic Performance: A Brief Review," the author has emphasized several aspects of concern. There are multiple key ways by which libraries contribute to improved academic outcomes. The author elucidated various important functions that the library performs in the academic environment. These include Access to Resources, Study Environment, Information Literacy Training, Support for Curriculum, Collaboration with Educators, and Community Engagement. Libraries offer quiet spaces, provide awareness of information literacy, and supply support material that complements students' classroom learning. Academic librarians frequently collaborate with teachers and educators to enhance the learning experience. This collaboration can lead to the development of tailored resources and programs that address the specific needs of students. In his comprehensive research, the author highlighted an often-overlooked objective of a library, which is promoting equity among students. (Mahwasane, 2016)

5. Stemmer, John K conceptualized dynamic relationships that indicate that the factors linking library usage to students' success change over time. This suggests that the role of the library in supporting students' success is dynamic and may vary as students progress through their

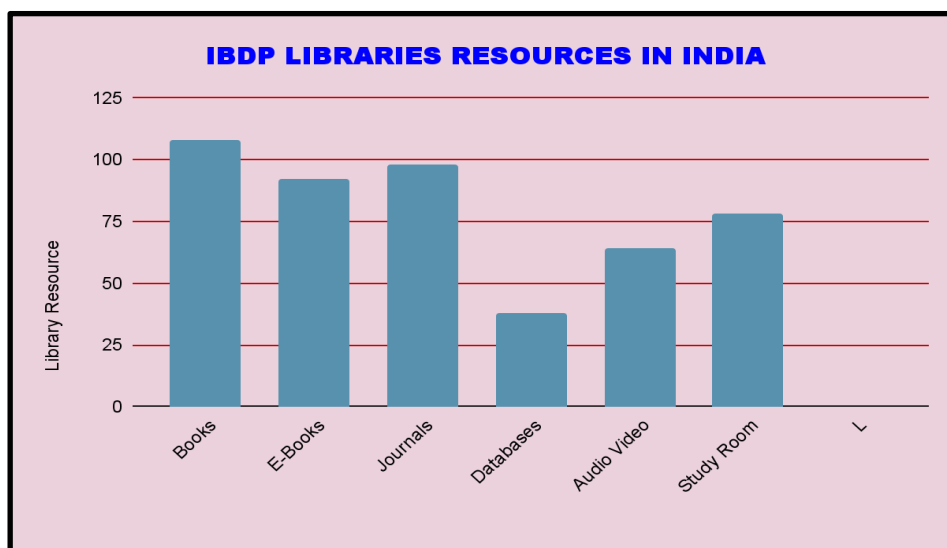
academic journey. The study identified some major outcomes related to student success. Significant outcomes were expressed as graduation rates being directly impacted due to greater engagement of students with library resources, which similarly reflected in Grade Point Average. The study specifically draws attention to the fact that retention rates are highly affected by how library usage in the first year influences students' likelihood of returning for subsequent years. For example, first-year students who utilized the library for academic purposes demonstrated stronger retention rates. One of the core philosophies reflected in IB core documentation is "Critical Thinking." The author pointed out self-reported gains in critical thinking as an outcome of library usage, linking it to educational success. (Stemmer & Mahan, 2016)

Research Methodology

A Google survey questionnaire method was employed as a data collection instrument. The survey form was distributed to various target groups, with a particular focus on IBDP librarians in India. A personal and community-based approach was utilized to gather information from libraries across India. The selected libraries were associated with IB, IGCSE, and CBSE curriculum; no questionnaires were sent to ICSE-affiliated schools. Some institutions offering all three curricula (IB, IGCSE & CBSE) were included. A total of 165 questionnaires were distributed, with 108 responses received.

The questionnaire was designed to measure the impact of libraries in a real-time academic environment. In addition to essential information, the questionnaire aimed to explore the services offered to the academic community, including students, types of resources provided with an emphasis on digital resources, the average library attendance of IB students for research or academic purposes, preferred resource types, and citation and research management tools. These aspects were of primary concern and were investigated.

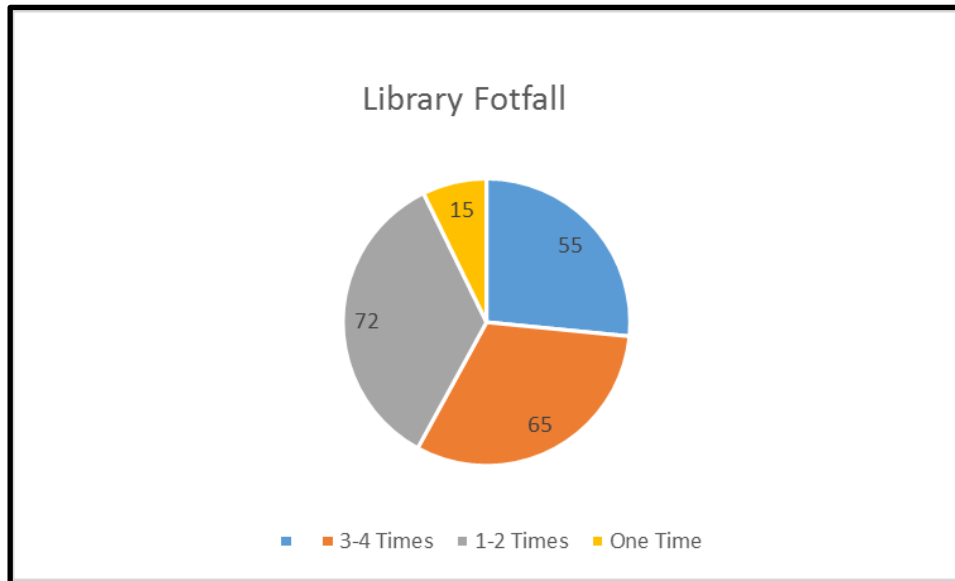
Research Findings



The investigation demonstrated that printed literature constitutes a fundamental component of library services, subsequently followed by academic journals and electronic books. Libraries appear to be regressing in their capacity to offer access to databases such as EBSCO, JSTOR, or ProQuest. A considerable number of libraries have not subscribed to these databases and predominantly depend on information available within the public domain or accessible through open-access databases. The majority of libraries exhibit a predominant reliance on printed literature, with 85.18% of libraries prioritizing electronic books, while 90.74% of libraries fulfill academic needs through journals, whereas database subscriptions are scarcely at a level of 35.6%. Additionally, 58.25% of libraries are offering audiovisual facilities equipped with necessary technology, whereas only 72.22% of libraries are providing dedicated study rooms for patrons.

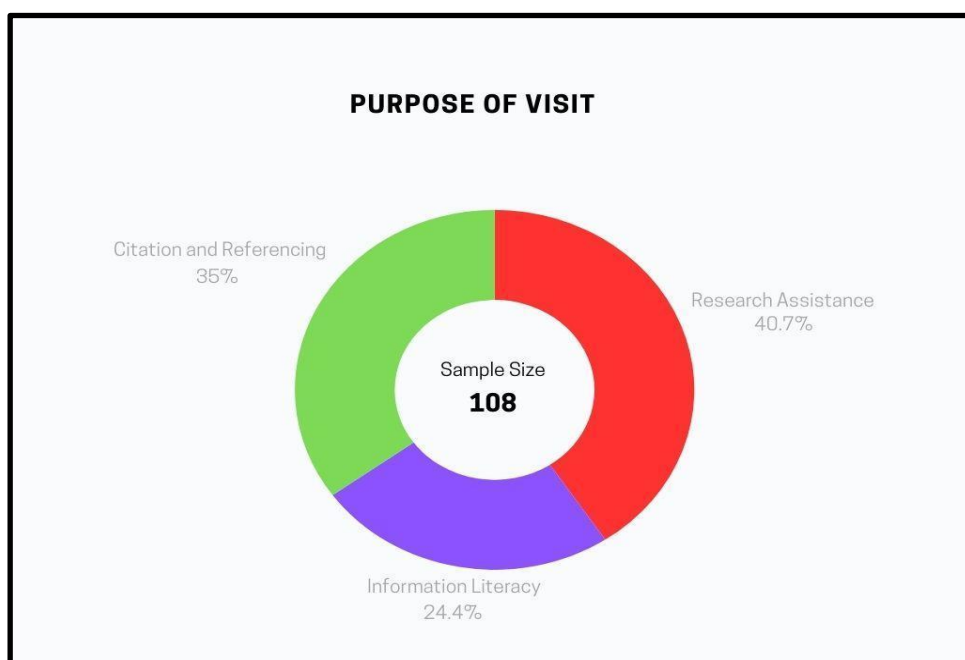
The research suggests that in the contemporary digital era, libraries must undergo a paradigm shift from traditional book repositories to a more multifaceted academic infrastructure. E-books have emerged as a prevalent resource for education, and libraries are increasingly contributing academic resources in the form of journals.

Library Visits



The library plays a central role in facilitating research related to extended essays. Sixty-five percent of respondents fall into the category of three to four library visits for research purposes, while the maximum number of visits occurs in the category of one to two visits per week. Approximately 20% of students do not utilize the library for their information needs. The data reveals an interesting pattern of knowledge-seeking behaviors. Students who visit libraries for their academic needs typically do so for collaborative knowledge sharing and research-related requirements, while 72 percent of students visit the library only one to two times for research-related guidance. More detailed research findings are presented in the subsequent graph.

Library Visits Objectives



IBDP libraries serve a critical function in students' academic development, particularly in supporting their research endeavors. Approximately 48% of libraries reported that students primarily utilize these facilities to access academic resources for their Extended Essay or TOK topics, while MYP students frequently visit for personal project research. Furthermore, 35% of libraries emphasized that students seek assistance with citation methodologies to maintain academic integrity. The selection of valid sources also presents a challenge; 25% of libraries note that ensuring source authenticity is essential for mitigating biased data. Consequently, information literacy is crucial for validating research findings.

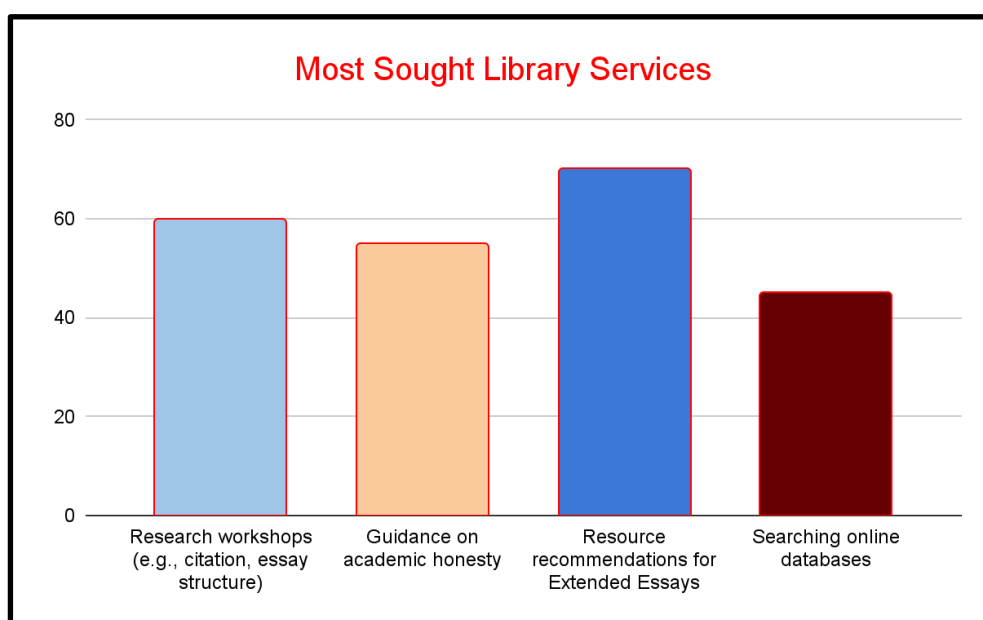
Library Usage Metrics

SL NO	Library's Role	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	The Library provides major support for Extended Essays	45	30	15	5
2	To Understand TOK, the library remains a key resource	40	35	10	15
3	The Library Enhances Reading Habits	60	20	10	10
4	Library use directly impacts a learner's academic performance	53	27	10	10

(Table-1)

The librarian plays a crucial role in pedagogical and educational leadership in IB World Schools globally. They support the academic environment through various means in addition to traditional academic leadership. The Extended Essay is one of the significant and vital

aspects that garners maximum attention from students. Forty-five percent of respondent libraries indicated that libraries are leaders in supporting extended essays. Thirty percent of respondent libraries acknowledged the significance of libraries in the Extended Essay, while 15% of libraries did not concede that libraries could play an important role in this area. Theory of Knowledge (TOK) has been the most intellectually engaging process and is an important aspect of the IBDP school journey. The percentages of respondents who strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree were 40, 35, 10, and 15 respectively. Approximately 60 percent of libraries accepted that libraries play a crucial role in improving reading habits and transforming students into lifelong learners. While 20 percent of libraries acknowledge that libraries enhance reading habits, the percentage of denial was ten. Overall, 53 percent of libraries conceded that students' academic performance is largely influenced by libraries.



Conclusion

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme itself doesn't inherently include specific "IBDP libraries." The IBDP is a curriculum framework, and schools authorized to offer the program will have their own libraries that support the curriculum. Therefore, the question of the role of "IBDP libraries" is better framed as the role of school libraries in supporting IBDP student academic performance.

Research suggests a positive correlation between student library use and academic outcomes like higher GPA and retention rates (Thorpe et al., 2016). While this research doesn't isolate IBDP students specifically, it's reasonable to infer that access to well-resourced libraries and

effective information literacy instruction contributes positively to IBDP student success.

Libraries can support IBDP students by:

- *Providing access to diverse resources:* This includes books, journals, databases, and online materials relevant to the six IBDP subject groups and the Extended Essay.
- *Offering information literacy instruction:* Librarians can teach students how to effectively research, evaluate sources, and cite information, crucial skills for the Extended Essay and other IBDP assessments.
- *Facilitating collaborative learning:* Libraries can provide spaces for students to work together on projects, discuss ideas, and support each other's learning.
- *Supporting the Extended Essay:* Librarians can guide students through the research process, help them find appropriate resources, and provide feedback on their work.

The study highlighted the importance of libraries in academic environments by emphasizing various aspects such as access to resources, study environment, information literacy training, support for curriculum, collaboration with educators, and community engagement. Libraries play a crucial role in student success by impacting graduation rates, grade point averages, and retention rates through greater student engagement with library resources. School libraries within IB programs need to adapt to meet changing educational needs, particularly in terms of inquiry-based learning and academic honesty, to effectively support student learning outcomes. Academic libraries are essential for student success, as they provide critical support for research endeavors, access to academic resources, assistance with citation methodologies, and information literacy training.

References:

Boye, B. A. (n.d.). *COVID-19 vaccine launch in India*. Unicef for Every Child. Retrieved November 18, 2024, from <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/stories/covid-19-vaccine-launch-india>.

De Groote, S. L., & Scoulas, J. M. (2022). The impact of the academic library on students' success, in their own words. *Portal Libraries and the Academy*, 22(2), 355–374.
<https://doi.org/10.1353/pla.2022.0021>

Hornby, A., Vrbancic, E., Association of Research Libraries, & University of Washington Libraries. (2021). Library outreach assessment. In *Associatio of Research Libraries*. Retrieved September 15, 2024, from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep51140>

Kumar, G., Jena, S., Snigdha, N. T., Basha, S., Narayanan, J. K., & Luke, A. M. (2023). Acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines in India: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *National Library of Medicine*, 11(5).
<https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines11050964>

Mahwasane, N. (2016). Conceptualizing the Importance of Libraries in Student Academic Performance: A Brief review. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 48(3), 259–266.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09718923.2016.11893589>

Nucleus Medical Media [Nucleus Medical Media]. (2020). *COVID-19 Animation: What Happens If You Get Coronavirus?* [Video]. YouTube. Retrieved November 18, 2024, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DGwOJXSxqg>

Stemmer, J. K., & Mahan, D. M. (2016). Investigating the relationship of library usage to student outcomes. *College & Research Libraries*, 77(3), 359–375.
<https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.77.3.359> Sterner, E. A. (2020). Impact of academic libraries on grade point average (GPA): a review. *Performance Measurement and Metrics*, 22(1), 71–85. <https://doi.org/10.1108/pmm-01-2020-000>

The Taj Mahal, Agra, India. Photograph, Ca. 1900. (2024, November 18). Welcome Collection. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/community.24883044>

Thorpe, A., Lukes, R., Bever, D. J., & He, Y. (2016). The impact of the Academic Library on Student Success: Connecting the dots. *Portal Libraries and the Academy*, 16(2), 373

392. <https://doi.org/10.1353/pla.2016.0027>

Tilke, A. (2021). IB School libraries as international-minded learning spaces and environments. *IASL Annual Conference Proceedings*, 397–408.

<https://doi.org/10.29173/iasl7524>