

## **Undergraduates' perception towards incorporating video repository with Institutional Repository at the Library, Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka: a need analysis**

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### **Abstract**

Undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies of the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies, Trincomalee Campus have to produce a digital story for the course 'basic video production'. As the students' productions are preserved only in the form of digital video discs, a lack of efficiency in preservation and retrieval was identified. Hence, the aim is to explore the preferences and perceptions of the undergraduates regarding initiating a video repository on the Institutional Repository. Therefore, the preferences and perceptions of the undergraduates on video repositories, the present status of retrieval and referencing of the videos produced by the undergraduates, and their willingness toward archiving the digital story produced by them on the Institutional Repository were analysed. A descriptive survey was carried out for data collection by self-administrated semi-structured questionnaires using Google forms. Data were analysed using MS office Excel. According to the preferences and perceptions on video repositories, more than 72% prefer to refer to videos produced by previous batches of the undergraduates. According to the present status of the video referencing and retrieval only about 22% of them are aware of video repositories and only 1.6% have access to repositories related to their field. Further, their dissatisfaction regarding the current retrieval system, lack of access to other repositories and lack of availability of their preservation systems were also identified. Further, their positive attitude towards preserving their creation in the repositories was identified. However, utilizing cloud storage and requesting approval from creators to download the creation were recommended along with expanding this study with all other students and staff of the Trincomalee Campus.

**Keywords:** Institutional Repository (IR), need analysis, video repository, referencing videos

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## **Introduction**

Trincomalee Campus which is expanded over 310 acres of land at Nilaveli in Trincomalee district had been initiated as an affiliated university college in 1993 and became an entity of Eastern University, Sri Lanka when the affiliated university college system was revoked. Initially, it functioned with two faculties; the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies, and the Faculty of Applied Sciences. In 2008 a new unit, for Siddha Medicine, was also introduced (Trincomalee Campus, n.d).

The Library, Trincomalee Campus is located within the premises of the Trincomalee Campus, and it serves about 1700 students from two faculties and the unit and around 100 academic staff. Other than the internal students, external students, who follow the external diploma are also allowed to use the Library of the Trincomalee Campus. The library is comprised of nearly 30,000 textbooks and journals, an e-library and a museum. It also allows printing and photocopy facilities for the users. The library is housed in a four-storied building, with a very conducive environment with good air circulation and light. Also, it provides free Wi-Fi facilities for the users.

Through the observations and informal discussions with the staff members and students during the last two years, the urgent need of improving the library facilities of the Trincomalee campus was discovered. Further, it was realized Trincomalee Campus library can provide more services to its users by increasing the facilities and the image of the library. During the COVID-19 pandemic period, it was observed a gap in service support from the Library of the Trincomalee Campus. Hence the necessity of activating a digital platform for the information resources of the library was identified.

Developing an Institutional Repository (IR) has been identified as one of the significant ways to increase the usage of resources and improve the image of the library (Robertson & Borchert, 2014). Increasing the visibility of unpublished materials such as thesis, dissertations, other research reports and working papers, which should be made visible to the global communities through Institutional Repositories, which may lead to an increase in the productivity of researchers in developing countries like Sri Lanka

(Mashroofa & Seneviratne, 2016). Further, it will lead to the activation of the digitization of information resources of the library since the Institutional Repository which is a typical learning system also serves as an archive for institutional research output consequently establishing a network platform that enables searching and using full-text documents (Chuang & Cheng, 2010). Establishing a repository would be beneficial to the users in numerous ways, such as helping the researchers to develop their portfolio, assisting to develop research reporting, providing an electronic publishing service, and providing retrieval for other research outputs (Wells, 2009). Further, it has the potential for accommodating portals for development (Henty, 2007).

The potential of video to be used in mixed methods research as a tool for the presentation of findings is proved. Even though the videos can be an influential mode of sharing research findings with a wide-ranging audience, they are commonly used as a tool for data collection whereas it is used rarely as a means for disseminating results. Since the late nineteenth-century motion pictures have been utilized in ethnographic research. While technologies have changed histrionically since the 1890s, researchers are still employing visual media such as photographic imagery and video footage to support social science research. And along with technological booms, digital video has become a vital tool for researchers to gather data, aid in analysis, present results and in case of social science research; those are used in research observations too. (Walker & Boyer, 2018)

The necessity to have large digital libraries with video collection is realized as the lack of availability of a standard collection of videos to be used for research purposes for multimedia information retrieval. In a video repository the videos that is in the public domain, or offered by creators who grant approval to use their intellectual property for research purposes could be made that video accessible in a variety of standard formats, including streaming, along with a set of accompanying metadata. That could lead the researchers to use the video for a comprehensive study covering a broad range of problems such as tests of algorithms for segmentation, summarization and creation of surrogates that describe video content; or interfaces that display result sets from queries. Considering on metadata is also vital as that can be used as search criteria, enabling researchers to find videos most suitable for their research purpose. (Geisler & Marchionini,

2000)

The strategy to attain a successful service is to design a user-oriented system (Antasari et al., 2021). Hence, analyzing the preferences and perceptions of users are essential for determining the software type and a design that allows them to effectively utilize the functionalities of the repository functions to be performed and designing the landing page with attractive functionalities based on their information-structural rules (González-Pérez et al., 2021). Therefore this survey is planned to be conducted.

The Department of Languages and Communication Studies of the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies comprises 552 students, which is the highest student population at present among the four departments and the unit. During the fourth year of study, the undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies have to produce a digital story for the course ‘basic video production’, following professional filmmaking stages. However, the students’ productions each year have been preserved only in the form of Digital Video Discs (DVDs). Hence, inefficiency in the preservation and retrieval of DVDs has been identified. Therefore, the need of analysing the perceptions of the library users was realised in case of the intention to integrate the features of video repositories in the Institutional Repository (IR) which leads to the provision face platform to showcase their products. Hence, to analyse the need for a video repository for the user community of Trincomalee Campus, this study has been conducted.

## **Aim & Objectives**

This study aims to explore the preferences and perceptions of the undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies of the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies of the Trincomalee Campus, by initiating a video repository on the Institutional Repository. To achieve this aim following objectives were identified.

- To identify the preferences and perceptions of the undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies on video repositories,

- To explore the current status of referencing and retrieving the videos, produced by the undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies, and
- To identify undergraduates' willingness towards archiving the digital stories that they produced on the Institutional Repository.

## **Methodology**

As the final year undergraduates have to produce a digital story for the course's basic video production the entire batch of the final year students of the Languages and Communication Studies of the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies was the population of this cross-sectional study. Hence the total enumeration sampling technique was adopted by considering the whole population as the sample.

A descriptive survey was used for the data collection from November 2021 to February 2022 by self-administrated semi-structured questionnaires. For some questions, they were allowed to choose more than one option. Hence qualitative and quantitative methods were used. The data were collected by Google form sent through e-mail. To measure the responses, a five-point Likert scale was used in the questionnaire. Average mean values for the responses were found for evaluation. Data were analysed using Microsoft Excel.

To identify the preference and perceptions of the undergraduates regarding the present status of the video reference, thirteen questions were given. For twelve questions they were allowed to choose more than one option. Students' perception of the present status of retrieval of videos was analysed by 5-point Likert Scale.

Likewise, to analyse the perceptions of the undergraduates regarding preserving videos in the Library repository, six questions were given along with ten statements on a five-point Likert scale. The Likert scale was analysed using the following scale where strongly disagree=1, disagree=2, neither agree nor disagree=3, agree=4, and strongly agree=5.

## Results & Discussion

Out of 134 final year undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies 127 responded and the response rate was 94.78%.

### Preferences and perceptions of the undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies on video repositories

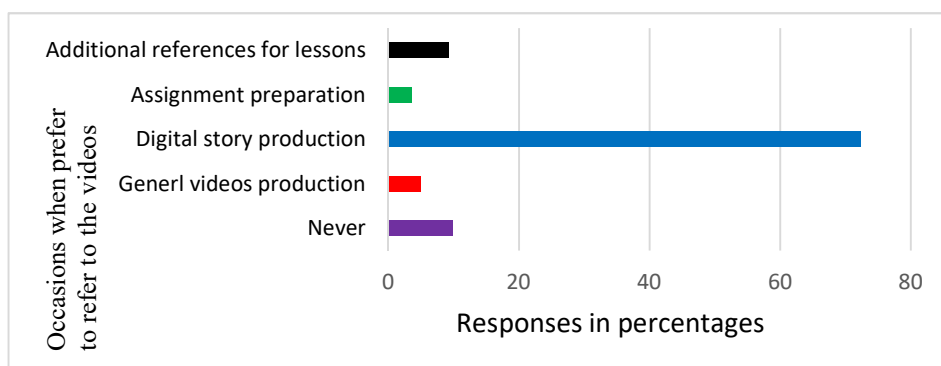


Figure 1. The occasions when undergraduates prefer to refer to the videos that were produced by the previous batch of students

The result illustrated in figure 1 reveals that more than 72 % of the students prefer to refer to videos that were produced by the undergraduates of previous batches of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies of Trincomalee Campus, during their digital story production period for the course 'basic video production'. About 91% of the population prefer to refer to the videos produced by the previous batch of students on some occasions.

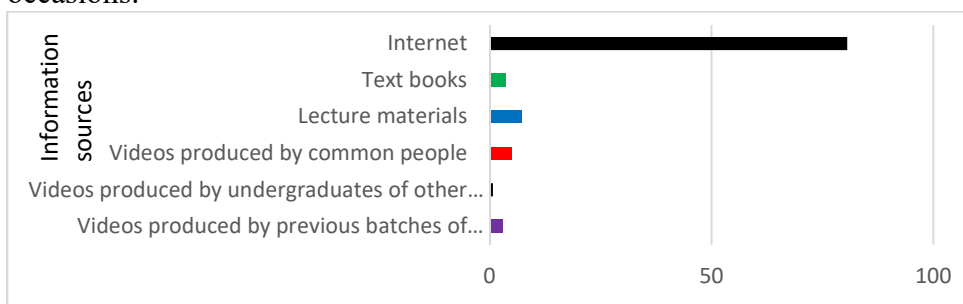


Figure 2. Information sources used by the undergraduates during their digital story production

Nearly 81% of them fairly depend on other sources such as browsing the Internet rather than relying on repositories (figure 2). Even if more than 72% of the students prefer to refer to the videos that were produced by the previous batches, only about 3% of them currently use those videos as references.

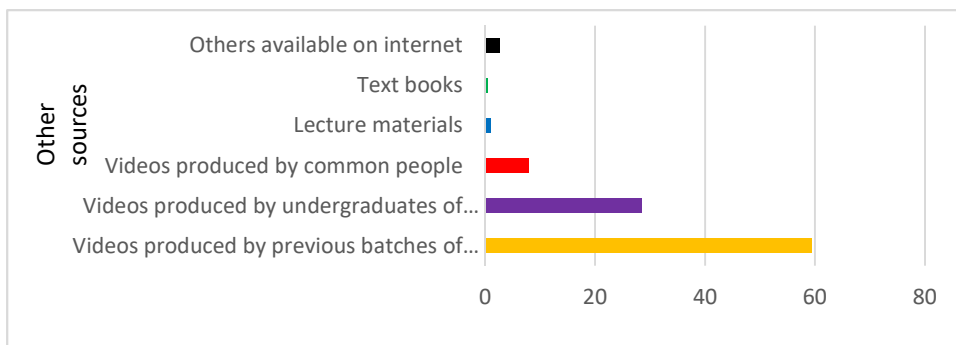


Figure 3. The preferred source for referencing when producing videos

According to the responses received to the question “Which is the most preferred source for your reference in case of video production?” (figure 3), about 60% of the undergraduates prefer to refer to the videos that were produced by their previous batches of students even though only about 3% of the students use those currently. Furthermore, 28% of the students reveal their willingness toward referring to the videos produced by the undergraduates of other universities.

In case of analyzing the attitudes and the perception on referencing the videos produced by the undergraduates from other universities, except the 7.3 % of the study population who stated that they never prefer to use the video produced by the students of other universities, others express their willingness towards prefer to use the videos produced by other universities for the occasions such as video production, additional references, and assignment preparations. 61.3 % stated that they prefer to refer to videos produced by undergraduates of other universities during their digital story production. However, 36 % of the study population stated that they preferred to use those only when during their video production.

Furthermore, according to the usage frequency, 67.2% stated that they used the videos produced by undergraduates of other universities only when they are instructed to refer them by their lecturers.

Whilst the evaluation regarding the videos produced by the general community which is available on social media, 66% of the study population says that they prefer to use them only during their video production and, 70% of expression received that they prefer to use them during some other occasions in addition to video production such as additional references, assignment preparation. However, 83.2% state that they refer to the video available on social media only when they are asked to refer.

When analysing the preferred place to watch the reference videos, the data reveals that 42% of the undergraduates preferred to watch the videos at the library using their devices, 40% wishes to watch the video at the e-library, 12% desired to watch the videos at the theatre which belongs to the Department of Languages and Communication Studies whereas 6% select the option other places such as their rooms, cafeteria and study hall.

### **Current status of referencing and retrieving the videos, produced by the undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies**

Figure 4 expresses the response regarding the mostly available reference source during their digital story production. According to the analysis, 77.2% of the undergraduates have identified, that the video produced by the general community is the most available reference source for producing their digital stories whereas only 3% of the undergraduate identified that the videos produced by the previous batches are the most available reference source.



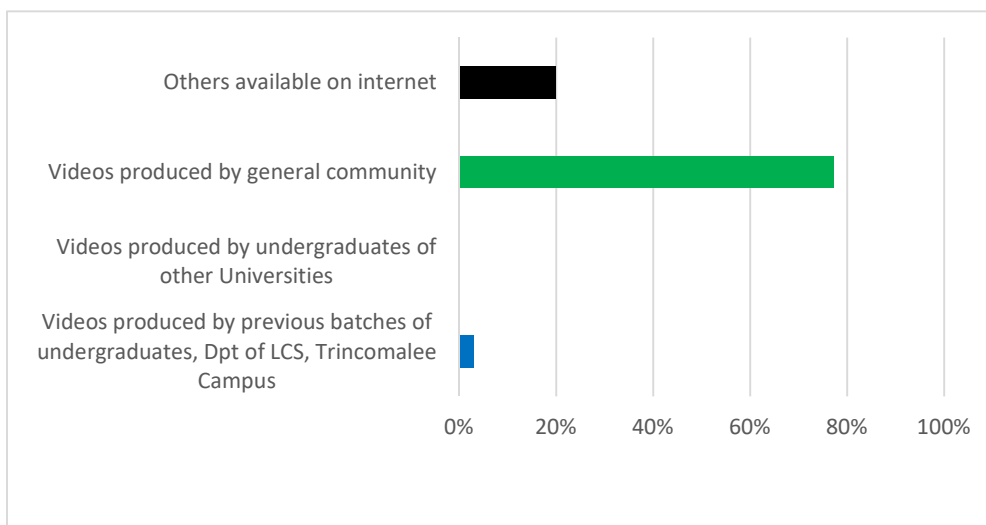


Figure 4. Responses for mostly available sources for video production

Figure 5 shows the reference sources used to obtain the videos produced by past batches of undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication studies, Trincomalee Campus. 78% of them stated that, even though they wanted to refer to the videos produced by their seniors, they couldn't find them from any reference source.

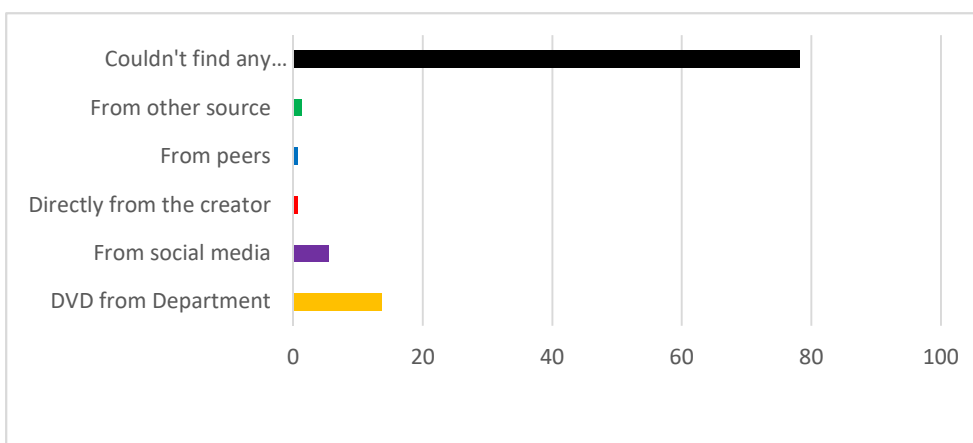


Figure 5. Sources used by the undergraduates to obtain the videos produced by past students

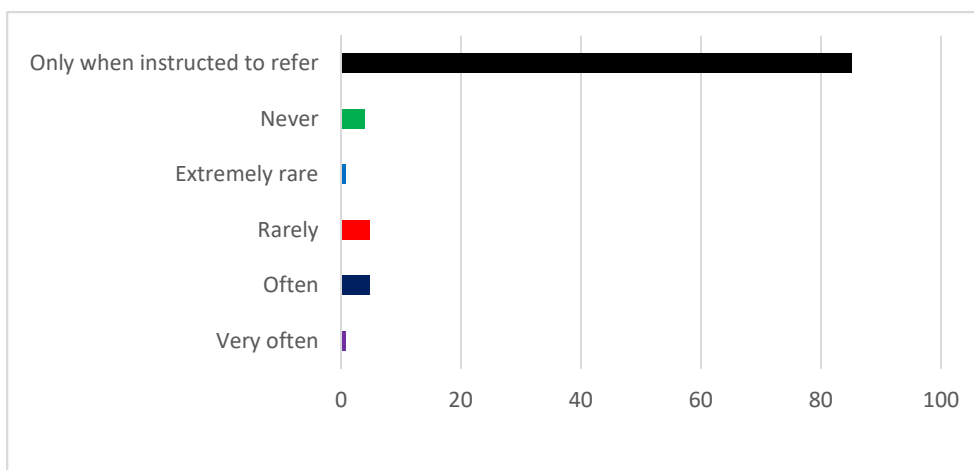


Figure 6. Preferences of the videos only when they are asked by their instructors

It seems that the majority of the students that is above 85% used to refer to the videos only when they are asked by their instructors to refer (figure 6).

In the analysis regarding the availability of the videos produced by the undergraduates of other universities 81.5% of the study population express their views that they are unable to access them, even if they need them for references. Furthermore, 8.18% say that they were able to receive them from social media.

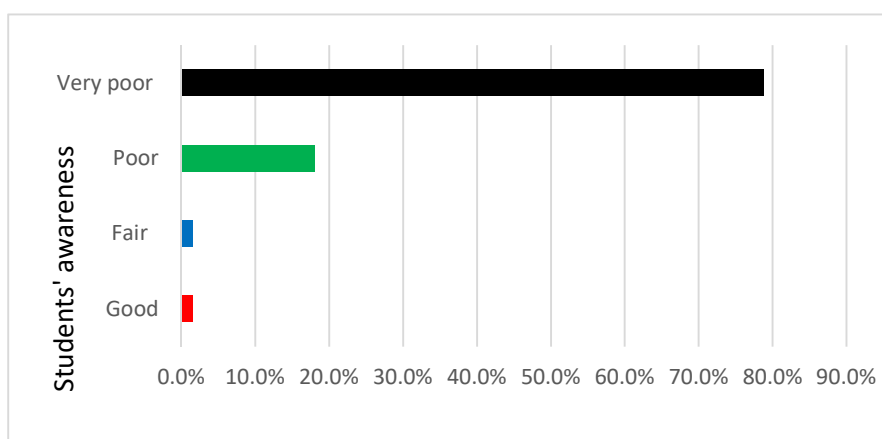


Figure 7. Students' awareness of Institutional Repositories and their benefits

Data reveals in figure 7 show, that only about 22% of the students aware of Institutional Repositories and their benefits. Further, the response to the question to understand their access to any repositories related to their field reveals that only 1.6% of them have access to some repositories related to their field whereas the majority above 98% of them doesn't have access to such repositories.

The mean value derived for the responses obtained in the five-point Likert scale analysis which was used to evaluate students' perception of the present status of retrieval of videos (table 1), reveals that the study population disagreed with all of the statements mentioned regarding the retrieval system prevails at Trincomalee Campus on retrieving the videos produced by the undergraduates of Department of Languages and Communication Studies. That reveals poor satisfaction of the users with the existing retrieval service regarding the videos produced by the undergraduate students of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies

Table1. Students' perception of the present status of retrieval of videos based on the 5-point Likert Scale

| Statements  | Number of responses |          |                            |       |                | Mean value for the Responses |
|---|---------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|------------------------------|
|   | Strongly disagree   | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |                              |
| I can freely access the videos produced by previous batch undergraduates Whenever need them.                        | 4.72%               | 86.61%   | 6.3%                       | 2.36  | 0%             | <b>2.06</b>                  |
| The systems for the preservation of the videos produced by the previous batches of undergraduates are satisfactory. | 0.79%               | 86.61%   | 6.3%                       | 5.51% | 0.79%          | <b>2.19</b>                  |

|  |               |               |               |              |              |             |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| The number of copies available of the videos is Satisfactory.        | 1.57%         | 76.38%        | 13.39%        | 8.66%        | 0%           | <b>2.29</b> |
| I was able to access the videos during the COVID-19 Pandemic period. | 7.87%         | 80.31%        | 7.87%         | 3.94%        | 0%           | <b>2.07</b> |
| I can watch the videos at my Preferred place.                        | 3.15%         | 67.72%        | 22.83%        | 5.51%        | 0.79%        | <b>2.33</b> |
| There is zero competition in taking home the Referencing videos      | <b>14.17%</b> | <b>72.44%</b> | <b>11.81%</b> | <b>0.79%</b> | <b>0.79%</b> | <b>2.01</b> |

### **Undergraduates' willingness towards archiving the digital stories that they produced on the Institutional Repository.**

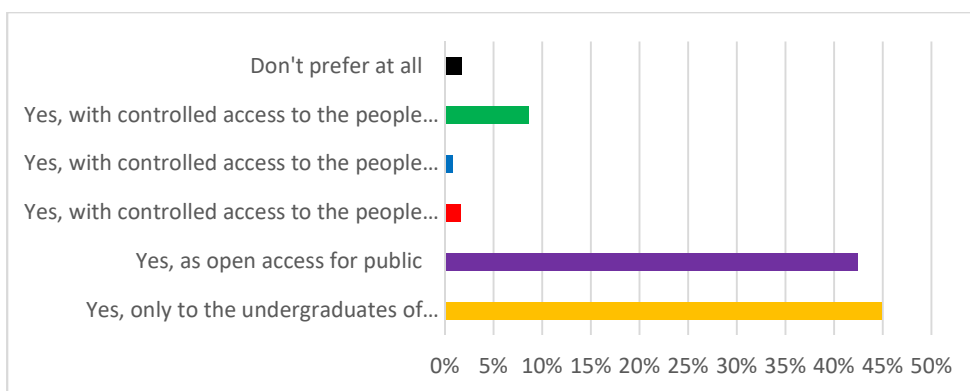


Figure 9. Students' preference on sharing their video creations

As per the results obtained from the survey only below 2% of the study population says that they do not prefer to share their production through repositories (figure 9).

Further, in the case of their preservation system, 96% of the population state, that they do not use any preservation system for their creations.

The data, which is the number of responses for each statement shown in table 2 along with the mean value for the responses, reveals students' perception by which the willingness about preserving their creations on the intuitional repository could be expressed.

This study expressed the undergraduates' perception on Institutional Repository that, showcasing their creations on an Institutional Repository will also improve the number of viewers for their videos, and will improve the number of viewers from other disciplines too. Further, they agree that Institutional Repository will have long-term feasibility. However, they feel that storing their creations in cloud storage will be safer than storing them in an internal server of the Institutional Repository.

**Table 2.** Students' perception on preserving their creation on the Intuitional Repository based on the 5-point Likert Scale

|  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree  | Strongly agree | Mean value  |
|--|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Showcasing my creations on social media will enhance recognition for my Creations</b>               | 0.79%             | 11.81%   | 29.1%                      | 45.6%  | 12.60%         | <b>3.81</b> |
| <b>Showcasing my creations on an IR will improve the number of viewers for my videos.</b>              | 0.79%             | 14.17%   | 33.86%                     | 39.37% | 12.60%         | <b>3.76</b> |
| <b>Showcasing my creations on an IR will improve the number of viewers from other disciplines too.</b> | 3.15%             | 14.96%   | 40.16%                     | 41.73% | 0.79%          | <b>4.17</b> |

|  |              |               |               |           |           |             |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>Storing my creations in cloud storage will be safer than storing them in an IR.</b> | 3.15%        | 33.07%        | 59.06%        | 3.93%     | 0.79%     | <b>3.58</b> |
| <b>Few people would see my work at repository than posting on social media.</b>        | 0.79%        | 11.81%        | 57.48%        | 26.77%    | 3.15%     | <b>4.00</b> |
| <b>Long term feasibility of the repository is realized.</b>                            | 0.79%        | 14.17%        | 72.44%        | 11.02%    | 1.57%     | <b>3.88</b> |
| <b>Others might alter my Work without my permission</b>                                | 0.79%        | 7.87%         | 78.74%        | 12.6%     | 0%        | <b>4.02</b> |
| <b>I prefer a subject repository over an IR</b>  | 0.79%        | 64.57%        | 23.62%        | 7.19%     | 1.57%     | <b>3.36</b> |
| <b>I prefer to make my Work available only on my personal website</b>                  | 6.3%         | 59.84%        | 33.07%        | 0.79%     | 0%        | <b>3.22</b> |
| <b>Repository would have low prestige</b>  | <b>8.66%</b> | <b>51.18%</b> | <b>40.16%</b> | <b>0%</b> | <b>0%</b> | <b>3.23</b> |

(Strongly Disagree = 1, Disagree = 2, neither agree nor disagree = 3, Agree = 4, strongly agree = 5)

Further, the study exhibits the negative insight into the Institutional Repository also. They feel that few people only would see their work at the repository than posting on social media and others might alter their work without their permission.

Moreover, their stand is neutral for some facts such as preference for a subject repository over an Institutional Repository and the preference for the availability of their work only on their website. Regarding the prestige of the repository, they do not have a strong perception.

The data expose revealed that the majority of them share their videos created for "Beginning video production" and "Advanced video production" with others. Also, 92% of them share their creative work with their batch mates along with others such as their friends, others related to their fields, and any other requests. However, currently, 79% of the study population shares their

creative work with their friends only.

Through the answers provided for the open-ended question asked to analyse the perception about their opinion concerning the use of the Institutional Repository in communication studies, most of their opinion revealed as initiating an institutional repository is an essential task for the betterment of the institution and them.

## **Conclusion**

According to the preferences and perceptions of the undergraduates of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies on video repositories, initiating a video repository is an essential task for the betterment of the institution as well as the undergraduates of Trincomalee Campus. Regarding the videos, majority of them prefer to refer to videos that were produced by the undergraduates of previous batches of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies of Trincomalee Campus, and most of their preferred place to watch the reference videos, is the library using their devices. Furthermore, significant number of the students reveal their willingness toward referring the videos produced by the undergraduates of other universities too.

According to the beliefs and perceptions of the undergraduates regarding the present status of the video referencing and retrieval, the lack of availability of the reference video required by them was identified. Along with that lack of access to other repositories, lack of awareness of the repositories, and lack of own preservation systems also were identified. Further, very few of the undergraduates have access to any repositories related to their field. In line with the students' perception of the present status of retrieval of videos, they are unsatisfied with the retrieval system that prevails at Trincomalee Campus in case of retrieving the videos produced by the undergraduate students of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies.

The perceptions of the undergraduates regarding preserving their creations on the Institutional Repository, the population agrees that showcasing their creations on an Institutional Repository will also improve the number of

viewers for their videos as in the case of posting those on social media. However, they feel that few people only would see their work at the repository than posting on social media and they express that by placing their creations on repositories, others might alter their work without their permission. Further, they agree that posting their creations on Institutional Repository will improve the number of viewers from other disciplines too. In addition to that, they agree with the long-term feasibility of the Institutional Repository. However, they feel that storing their creations in cloud storage will be safer than storing them in an internal server of the Institutional Repository.

However, very few students know about Institutional Repositories and their benefits. And most of them do not have a preservation system for their creations. Currently, most of them share their creative work with friends only, even though they prefer to share their production through repositories. Hence, their positive attitude towards preserving their creation in the repositories was identified.

## **Recommendations**

As the need for an Institutional Repository with the incorporation of a video repository was identified, initiating Institutional Repository with Video Repository features at the Library, Trincomalee Campus is suggested. As the lack of awareness on Institutional Repository was identified, conducting awareness programs are suggested. However, utilizing cloud storage is recommended according to their perception to improve views as in the case of posting on social media. However, requesting approval from creators to download the creation is also recommended due to the issue of alternating the creations without the creators' knowledge.

## **Avenues for Further Studies**

As the study was conducted only with the final year students of the Department of Languages and Communication Studies, the recommendation is given for expanding this study to all other students and staff of the Trincomalee Campus especially the academia of the same Department, to



achieve improved fruitful results of this study. Further utilizing YouTube as a video repository for Trincomalee Campus and comparing the advantages over video repository on Institutional Repository should be analysed.

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