

## **Reading Habits and Attitudes of UMSKAL Undergraduates**

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Effective reading is essential for success in acquiring a foreign language. Students have to read a wide range of textbooks and related materials at the tertiary level. Lack of adequate reading habit is, therefore, bound to impede students' progress towards mastery of a foreign language. This study investigated reading habits and attitudes on reading of the undergraduate students attending EFL courses at a public university in Malaysia. For data collection, a 45 item questionnaire based on the Adult Survey of Reading Attitude (ASRA) from the work of Smith (1991) were designed and administered on around 300 students. The questionnaire investigated the students' general attitude and preferences towards reading. This study was based on the following research questions:

- i) What are the reading habits of these undergraduate students?
- ii) What are the attitudes of these students to reading as a useful language learning skill?
- iii) What are the reading preferences of these undergraduate students?

The research findings through qualitative analysis revealed that the undergraduate students had positive attitude towards reading and were involved in various types of reading activities that were done both in native and foreign languages. Based on the findings, few recommendations were made to improve reading among those undergraduates.

**Keywords:** *reading habits, attitude towards reading, reading preferences, EFL*