

## RESEARCH ARTICLE



# Attitudes of teachers of learning disabilities in English language towards the use of information technology in Irbid from their point of view

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### Abstract

This study aimed at identifying the attitudes of teachers of learning disabilities in English language in Irbid Governorate towards the use of information technology from their point of view. The study population consisted of (60) female and male teachers and the study sample was selected in a stratified random manner, and the number of the sample members was (30) female and male teachers. To achieve the objectives of the study, a questionnaire was developed to measure the attitudes of teachers of LDs in English language towards the use of information technology. The results showed that teachers of LDs in English language tend to use information technology at a high level, from their point of view. The researcher recommends that the Ministry of Education pay attention to this attitude towards information technology through training and creative development in their schools, including renewal, preparing computerized curricula, and integrating information technology in various fields of work.

**Key words:** learning disabilities in English, information technology, teachers, Irbid

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

Recently, there has been a continuous and rapid increase in information systems and a realization of their importance for governmental and private organizations and institutions. This importance is due to the emergence of recent trends in organizations. First, the increasing influence of knowledge and information in advanced societies, and the increase in the influence of those working there, which led to an increase in the demand for information and communications. Second, the development of communication networks led to the emergence of information systems and the use of computers, and this increased to the point of designing and building organizations that work entirely using computers (Muslim, 2017).

It has become possible, thanks to information tech-

nology, to simulate the external reality within the school walls. Multiple means of direct communication with sources of knowledge outside the school became available. Information technology is an effective means of transmitting the pulse of reality and vitality to the school for education to become more realistic, and it is an effective means to raise awareness. The learner is given opportunities to deal directly or semi-directly with this reality (Yallihep & Kutlu, 2020).

The use and employment of information technology have become a very urgent need and a costly matter. Therefore, it was necessary to define and regulate the relationship between the use of this technology and the benefit resulting from this use. Countries, governments, and individuals spend exorbitant money on the employment of information technology. Jordan is among the countries that have worked and are

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still working tirelessly to use this technology in its various forms, as this has been positively reflected on the performance of its institutions in a remarkable way (Kuek, & Hakkennes, 2020).

The comprehensive vision does not stop at the limits of the present and what is going on in it, but it necessarily extends to the future in an attempt to inspire it, anticipate its dimensions, predict its events and prepare for it, and reformulate programs and strategies (Fahmy, 2020). The issue of information technology is one of the hot topics in the modern era, which will work to improve the quality of education and make it more compatible with the requirements of this century. Therefore, the vast majority of countries in the world have developed comprehensive strategies for change in curricula and the educational ladder to advance the educational system (Cuban, 2018).

Because of the importance of the use of information technology in terms of influencing the performance of schools, those interested and researchers in educational administration at the global, Arab, and local levels have addressed this issue with great interest. This attention was because schools that cannot employ information technology will not innovate even if they perform other administrative functions such as planning, organization, and follow-up (Reich et al., 2020).

## 1.1 | The problem of the study

Qualifying and preparing teachers of learning disabilities make them more able to face the challenges they face. The use of information technology in educational institutions has an important impact on the learning and teaching process, as preparing and training principals and teachers to take advantage of information technology in the educational process and educational administration is one of the most important components of the information and communication technology era.

Given the great changes that Jordan has witnessed with the advent of the information age and the communications revolution, educational institutions' programs need to be reconsidered and developed to keep pace with changes in the field of information technology. This could happen through the availability of trained work staff to follow up on the e-learning environment and follow up on emerging

information. Recently, educators have felt this need, and there have been calls to reconsider the content, objectives, and means of the educational process, to allow managers to acquire knowledge related to technology.

The problem of the study is determined by surveying the views of teachers of learning disabilities and their appreciation of the attitudes towards the use of information technology due to the importance of the role played by the school administration in achieving the objectives of the educational process and the adoption of performance effectiveness on the optimal use of information technology.

## 1.2 | Question of the study

The study attempted to answer the main following question:

[noitemsep,nolistsep,topsep=5pt]What are the attitudes of teachers of learning disabilities in English language in Irbid Governorate towards the use of information technology from their point of view?

## 1.3 | Significance of the study

This study acquires its importance in building clear visions for teachers before undertaking planning, especially based on the directions of the Ministry of Education towards computerization of education. The results will be useful to educators and decision-makers in understanding the views of teachers toward the use of IT in the classrooms.

## 1.4 | Limitations

This study was limited to teachers of learning disabilities in English language in Irbid governorate for the academic year 2019/2020. Its results are determined by the validity and reliability of the instrument and the responses of the study sample.

## 2 | LITERATURE REVIEW

The term information technology has been conceptualized within the framework of the development

of contemporary administrative thought. Information technology systems mean that basic technology is used in modern computer-based information systems, and their applications for the beneficiary of the system, or the manager, and it includes devices, communication networks, databases, and the necessary programs (Szymkowiak et al., 2021).

Carter (2001) defined IT as a set of scientific, technical, engineering, humanitarian and social procedures, administrative procedures, and various techniques used in specific areas. It is also the human efforts in collecting, storing, processing, transmitting, broadcasting, and retrieval of various information that arise from interactions between these technologies, knowledge, and the person dealing with them with all his senses. and his perceptions.

The new role of teachers of learning disabilities in light of the concept of information technology poses great responsibilities to the process of preparing the teacher and arming him with the basics of computer science to increase productivity and save time and effort. It is also important to help teachers in organizing different tables, preparing administrative letters, and other uses that are difficult to enumerate (Abu Nasser, 2016). This prompted those interested in educational administration to pay more attention to developing programs to prepare and train teachers of learning disabilities, which resulted in the emergence of several trends. Some of these trends focused on the necessary characteristics of a good teacher, others focused on their training behavior, and some focused on verbal and nonverbal interaction between The teacher and the student (Al-Nassar, 2003).

Despite these serious attempts to develop teachers of learning disabilities, there is still evidence of the need for more focused efforts to radically develop them, so that this leads to the availability of scientific and professional competence for them. There is an urgent need for teachers to become familiar with the modern technological methods that were introduced and used in the educational field. Several technologies, such as systems analysis, interaction analysis, instructional design, individualization of instruction, educational computer, and other educational innovations help teachers to get rid of traditional teaching practices that make the textbook a single reference for both the student and teacher alike (Mehboob & Nawaz, 2021).

The importance of modern electronic devices lies in improving the teaching and learning processes. The use of these modern devices leads to eliminating the influence of teachers' tendencies and traditional practices in the educational process in the resource room and liberating the student from being forced to sit inside the resource room daily for five or six hours continuously. Using technology provides programs, methods, and a variety of areas liberating education from the standardized time for student achievement (Mehboob, & Nawaz, 2021).

## 2.1 | Previous studies

Al-Dogan and Al-Abdullatif (2021) explored the level of competencies and attitudes towards ICT integration among Arabic language teachers. The study also investigated the attitudes according to the variables gender, age, school stage, and experience. The descriptive survey approach was used as an instrument in this study. The sample consisted of 150 male and female Arabic teachers in general education schools in Al Ahsa. The findings showed that the perceptions of teachers were positive toward using ICT in teaching. The results also revealed different variations in the teachers' responses according to gender, experience, and the other variables of the study.

Mansour (2021) identified the impact of using augmented reality technology in developing scientific concepts and information search skills among ninth-grade students in the State of Kuwait. The study included 60 students. The descriptive methodology was used to collect data from the sample. The findings revealed that using AR technology has an impact on developing the scientific knowledge of students. The use of AR also increased students' skills in research for information.

Al-Bakhit (2020) explored the impact of using ICT on improving the academic achievement of students with reading difficulties from the point of view of teachers. The study included 70 female teachers in Hail city, Saudi Arabia. The study used the correlative descriptive method and developed a questionnaire to collect data. The results of the study showed that students with learning difficulties in reading had slightly improved after using ICT according to the teachers' point of view.

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Ismail et al (2017) investigated the effectiveness of a website designed for this study to increase awareness of dyslexia among a sample of 400 students, teachers, and parents. The study did two surveys on the website. The results revealed there are differences in the views of students, teachers, and parents toward dyslexia. Their level of awareness on this issue varied and was related to its definition, treatment, and causes and effects.

Abdullah and Ziden (2015) investigated the underlying factors of attitudes towards information technology and the relationship with academic achievement among students. The study used a questionnaire to reveal the attitudes of 800 students. The findings of the study showed that there are differences between the students from Art majors and science majors. The results showed a correlation between the use of ICT and students' academic achievement and their attitudes toward ICT in general.

## 3 | METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 | Population and Sample

The study population consisted of all 60 teachers with learning disabilities in English language. The study sample was selected from this population, whose number was 30 male and female teachers.

### 3.2 | Instrument of the study

To measure the degree of use of information technology by teachers of LDs in English language, a questionnaire was designed as an instrument according to the five-point Likert scale (always, often, sometimes, rarely, never). The questionnaire measured the levels of responses of teachers of LDs in English language for each of the paragraphs of the questionnaire for information technology at present.

### 3.3 | Validity

The study instrument was presented to a group of judges with expertise and competence. The judges were asked to express their opinions on the instrument. 80% of the judges' opinions were adopted as a basis for keeping the paragraph or deleting it, and the

paragraphs that scored less than 80% were deleted. The instrument was in its final form 30 statements.

### 3.4 | Reliability

The information technology questionnaire was applied in its final form to the members of a pilot sample consisting of (40) from outside the study sample. After two weeks passed, the test was re-applied on the same sample. After correcting the answers and unloading the scores, the correlation coefficient was calculated between the individual's mark on the scale the first time and his mark on the scale the second time. The Pearson correlation equation was used, and the value of the correlation coefficient between the two applications was (0.90), which is statistically significant at the level (0.001).

## 4 | RESULTS

To answer the main question of the study, the mean scores and standard deviations of the answers of teachers of LDs in English language in Irbid governorate were measured towards the use of information technology, and Table (1) illustrates the results.

Table 1. The mean scores, standard deviations, ranks, and attitudes of teachers of LDs in English language towards the use of information technology

Rank	Dimension	NO.	Mean score	Standard deviation	Level of attitude
1	control and guidance	10	4.06	0.67	High
2	Leadership and management	10	3.94	0.60	High
3	Communication	10	3.83	0.75	High
	Total	33	3.95	0.63	High

It is noted from the results in Table (1) that the attitudes of teachers of LDs in English language in Irbid Governorate towards the use of information technology from their point of view came at a high level. It obtained a mean score of (3.97) and a standard deviation of (0.63).

It is clear from Table (1) that the third domain, "Control and Guidance", got the first rank with a mean score of (4.06) and a standard deviation of (0.67).



The "Leadership and management" field got the second rank with a mean of (3.94) and a standard deviation of (0.60). The domain of "communication" got the third and last rank with a mean score of (3.83) and a standard deviation of (0.75). These three averages represent a high attitude towards the use of information technology from the point of view of teachers of English language.

The mean scores and standard deviations were calculated for each of the statements of the three dimensions of the questionnaire, and tables (2, 3, 4) illustrate the results.

**4.1 | The first dimension: Control and Guidance**

Table (2) shows the order of the statements of this field in descending order according to the mean scores. The table also shows the mean scores and standard deviations of the answers of teachers of LDs in English language towards the use of information technology, as well as their attitudes towards the use of information technology for each statement.

Table 2. The mean scores, standard deviations, ranks, and level of attitudes for the answers of teachers of LDs in English language learning in the first dimension

Rank	Statement	Mean score	Standard deviation	Level
1.	I use information technology to plan work.	4.60	0.68	High
2.	I explain to people with learning disabilities the importance of computers, their speed, and accuracy in processing data.	4.41	0.73	High
3.	Using ICT is easy.	4.33	0.76	High
4.	I pay attention to public safety in the use of information technology.	4.24	0.89	High
5.	I use the information technology available in the school effectively.	4.16	0.85	High
6.	I would like to obtain an International Computer Driving License.	3.77	0.84	High
7.	I use information technology to achieve the set goals.	3.72	0.87	High
8.	I provide computerized educational programs.	3.71	0.90	High
9.	I keep the information and copy it to CDs.	3.69	1.00	High
10.	I use the Internet to get information quickly.	2.95	1.51	Medium
11.	I use information technology in the implementation of educational programs and activities.	2.09	1.62	Low
Total		4.06	0.67	High

The results in Table (2) showed that the statement "I use information technology in work planning" came in the first rank as it obtained a mean score of (4.60) and a standard deviation of (0.68). The statement "I use information technology in the implementation of

educational programs and activities" ranked in the last place with a mean of (2.09) and a standard deviation of (1.62).

**4.2 | The second dimension: Leadership and management**

Table (3) shows the order of the statement of this dimension in descending order according to the mean scores and the standard deviations of the answers of teachers of LDs in English language and their attitudes.

Table 3. The mean scores, standard deviations, ranks, and level of attitudes for the answers of teachers of LDs in English language toward the "leadership and management" dimension

Rank	Statement	Mean score	Standard deviation	Level
1.	I share information and ideas with other resource rooms teachers.	4.55	0.71	High
2.	I believe that information technology is an important and helpful factor for the teacher.	4.25	0.92	High
3.	I benefit from those with expertise in the field of information technology.	4.19	0.91	High
4.	I leave out traditional learning and move towards e-learning.	3.89	0.63	High
5.	I have access to information at the school.	3.84	1.00	High
6.	I involve teachers in planning for the development of information technology in the school.	3.74	1.05	High
7.	I pay attention to the cleanliness and safety of devices.	3.67	1.05	High
8.	I encourage teachers to use the Internet in education.	3.64	1.17	High
9.	I take advantage of information technology in correspondence.	3.59	1.01	High
10.	I learn about global experiences in information technology.	3.43	1.00	High
11.	I prepare an action plan to activate the communication.	3.36	1.06	Medium
Total		3.94	0.60	High

It appears from the results in Table (3) that the statement "I exchange information and ideas with other resource rooms teachers," came in the first rank as it obtained a mean of (4.56) and a standard deviation of (0.72). The statement "I prepare a procedural plan to activate the communication" came to the last rank with a mean of (3.36) and a standard deviation of (1.06).

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## 4.3 | The third dimension: communication

Table (4) shows the order of the statements of this dimension in descending order based on the mean scores and standard deviations of the managers' answers, as well as the level of orientation for each statement.

Table 4. The mean scores, standard deviations, ranks, and level of attitudes for the answers of teachers of LDs in English language on the dimension of communication

Rank	Statement	Mean score	Standard deviation	Level
1.	I stand on all problems and obstacles.	4.54	0.74	High
2.	I do regular maintenance of computers.	4.32	0.84	High
.2	I follow the students' achievements.	4.32	0.85	High
.4	I conduct inspection tours to check on the progress of work.	4.25	0.89	High
.5	I pay attention to the lighting and ventilation in the resource room	4.19	0.83	High
.6	I provide the necessary instructions for students to deal with the devices.	4.18	0.91	High
.7	I take care to search for everything new.	4.11	1.06	High
.8	I spend time in computer labs.	3.91	0.98	High
.9	I am keen to follow the principle of accountability.	3.81	0.90	High
.10	I develop mentoring strategies for the effective application of e-learning.	3.56	1.00	High
.11	I help the teacher in orientation towards e-learning.	3.52	0.98	High
Total		3.83	0.75	High

It is clear from the results in Table (4) that the statement "I stand on all problems and obstacles" came in the first rank, as it obtained a mean of (4.54) and a standard deviation of (0.74). The statement "I help the teacher to move towards e-learning" came to the last rank with a mean of (3.53) and a standard deviation of (0.99).

The researcher attributes these results to the importance of using information technology to save effort and time and to deliver information quickly and to the training programs prepared by the Ministry of Education. Perhaps the reason why teachers with learning difficulties tend to use information technology is due to their knowledge that this field is in continuous and rapid development and serves the purposes of administrative planning and the educational and learning process in the school. The use of ICT enables them to use technology effectively in line with contemporary requirements, in addition to the desire of teachers of learning disabilities to obtain more knowledge and relevant information to be able to raise the level of their institutions.

## 5 | RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the results, the study recommends using computerized curricula and the integration of information technology into various work fields. It is also recommended to disseminate the experience of outstanding teachers of learning difficulties who give the subject of information technology and change management in their schools the necessary importance, by conducting surveys and research from time to time.

## 6 | ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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TIAL\_ABILITY\_OF\_SCHOOL\_STUDENTS\_WITH\_LEARNING\_DISABILITIES\_IN\_SAUDI\_ARABIA

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