

ABSTRACT

Reading and science literacy and their levels play an important role in students' success in school and in adult life. They can be seen as essential for active participation in society. Although the Basic Education Framework Curriculum makes little reference to these literacies, their characteristics are given in the relevant educational areas. Literacy in reading and science can be developed in different ways, including in the context of work with a specialist biology-oriented text. The main aim of this thesis is to investigate the level of information-seeking skills in a specialist biology text among students of the lower secondary school. It investigates how this skill varies by grade, gender and whether the information in the text is related to theoretical background, methodology or research findings. The data were obtained using two author-made tests completed by 192 students attending the lower secondary school of the school T. G. Masaryk in Jihlava. They were evaluated with the help of the Kruskal-Wallis H test. A significant difference was found only when comparing the sixth grade with the other grades. The sixth grade students were statistically less successful. Students were significantly more successful compared to other sections only in finding information related to the methodology. Girls performed better compared to boys. Overall, students achieved a 56% success rate in tests of the ability to retrieve information from a specialist biology-oriented text.