
**A STUDY ON SCHOLARLY INFORMATION RESOURCES
ACCESS PATTERN AMONG THE POST GRADUATE STUDENTS
IN ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY, KARAIKUDI**

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Abstract :

Library is essentially a service is primary objective of the library is render satisfactory and timely services to the user community .now days is more emphasis on the users. That means the focus today is not on the mere system, but on its response to the needs of the users. The libraries have changed the out model concept of preserving a large number of reading materials for the sake of preservation only in this context, it is noteworthy to quote Gurudeva Tagore's 1remark "The extent of use to which the reading materials of a library is put, should determine its importance rather an the staggering number of volumes "

KEYWORDS :

Scholarly Information , Library , staggering , community.

1.INTRODUCTION

Libraries are constantly expanding their resources and developing new programmes and procedures to meet the various information requirements of the users. So the library must therefore be alert to change from time to time. Information explosion, increased publication, demands for new and better library services and shortage of funds have forced the librarians and information scientists to look with critical eyes at their own library organization and activities. Technological and social changes have presented new problems for the library. And have opened new fields of service. These changes call for new techniques and for critical re-examination of old ones. One of the most important and effective means of accomplishing this task is the employment of the library survey. Any library irrespective of its kind has to be user oriented. All the services provided by the library are intended for the benefit of the users.

INFORMATION PROCESSING

Information has to be sought and, once identified, it has to be accessed and acquired. The search for information or information processing is, therefore, a vital component of information science. Information processing is governed by certain postulates and follows certain patterns. In other words, information processing is an art that has to be cultivated consciously and purposively. The manner in which an individual seeks information determines the success or the failure of the search. In other words, information processing behavior is a science that merits close study.

DEFINITION OF INFORMATION

The term information has been defined variously but none of the definitions is comprehensive enough to satisfy everyone and cover all the connotations of the term. This is so because of concept of information is quite indescribable. Almost anything can become information because the process of identification of information is highly subjective.

POSTULATES OF INFORMATION

Through information cannot be satisfactorily defined, there are a few irrefutable faculty relating to information: it satisfies a perceived need: it supplies new knowledge, the recipient undergoes a change and it is to be communicated

information that lies without being communicated is mere data and to quality to be called information. It must be communicated in some form or other and a recipient must receive it. In fact, the element of communication is so bound up with the concept of information that many people often use the two terms synonymously.

KNOWLEDGE

According to Krishn Gopal (2000), knowledge is the sum total of what is known to the society and has a greater social value, whereas information is user specific and an essential input for generating and developing more knowledge and knowledge based products. Knowledge comprises two types: tacit and explicit. Tacit knowledge is highly people dependent and is created when insights or experiences are added to information. Tacit knowledge resides within individuals or becomes embedded in organizational routines and procedures. It is non verbal and so is difficult to articulate, codify, measure, spread and store.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature is a significant part of every research work because it avoids duplication of work that has already been done. It helps the investigator to go deep into the problem at hand and to study the different sides of the problem.

Deanna B. Marcum and Gerald George revealed in their study on "who uses what? Report on a National survey of information users in college and universities found that: 93.9% of the respondents agreed strongly or moderately with comfortable retrieving and using electronic information and a high overall proportion (94.7%) professed strong or moderate comfortable with their institutional web site. Substantial proportions of respondents in all categories have used electronic information all.

Ganesan and Murugesapandian in their study on "Evaluating Web resources, services and user attitude towards web based information services at university of Hyderabad-A study" have found that internet service at library is used more by social science students (40%) and Humanities students got second place (28.57%). Most of the students preferred printed materials rather than electronic materials and in Web based information services; OPAC has got the first preferences, when compared with other kinds of services. Majority of the students mentioned that they were using google search engine for retrieving any type of information.

Justine, S (2003), on his Ph.D thesis "Information Seeking behavior of professors in professional colleges and arts colleges in Monomaniam Sundranar University area" submitted at Periyar University, Salem has revealed that professors working in arts and science colleges as well as professional colleges 'prefer' first-Book as their major source of information for their academic preparation. The professors of professional colleges have shown their preferences for the major source of information-books followed by time bound publications and interactive sources.

Micaela Weldman (2003) has revealed in his study on "Freshmen's use of library electronic resources and self efficacy" that 94% reported having access to a personal computer at home, 73% said they access the internet daily, 44% of respondents used for education information.

Sharma and Singh (2005) revealed in their study on reading habits of faculty members in Natural, Sciences at University of Delhi that (53 randomly selected respondents of Professors, Associate professors, Assistant professors and 47 were received) In a study on "Use of online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) in MSRIM Library, Bangalore: A case study" 2006 an M.Phil dissertation by Mayannavar, Shridhar. B.8, discovered that OPAC serves the time and give quick accurate and efficient information, it was easy to search, it was easy to locate, retrieving of required information.

Thanuskodi (2009) has revealed in his study the present situation of declining budgets and higher subscription costs of journals in India, it is becoming very difficult to meet the demands of library users. The age of library consortia is at the doorsteps to prove the library cooperation locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It is the one of the emerging tool kit for the maximum libraries to survive if the libraries have to provide information to their users.

Thanuskodi (2009) has revealed in his study 77.35 % of the respondents 'always' first consulted their personal collections. Of the 53 respondents, 27 (48.21%) reported 'always' and 23 (41.07%) 'frequently' visiting the Central Law College library for meeting their information needs. The percentages of respondents 'always' and 'frequently' approaching their colleagues were 34.69 % and 44.89% respectively. Data analysis suggested that faculty members preferred to first consult their personal collection for meeting their information needs followed by college library and colleagues.

Thanuskodi (2011) has showed in his study 67.14 % of the faculty members are familiar with the use of digital resources. Majority of the faculty members are using digital resources for research purpose. Study also reveals that majority of the faculty members are learning the required skills for the usage of digital resources through 'self-study'.

Thanuskodi (2011) has showed a questionnaire-based survey on use of OPAC was conducted for Annamalai University Library on various categories of users such as faculty members, research scholars and postgraduate students, covering different disciplines such as Arts, Science, Engineering, Medicine and Agriculture sciences. The paper discusses various aspects of OPAC such as frequency of use, purpose, satisfaction level, etc. The results of the study show that only one third of the respondents used OPAC frequently. The study also found that majority of users consulted OPAC to know the availability and location of the requisite documents. The study shows that 95 % of 60 respondents expressed lack of knowledge, 70 % expressed confusing to use, 51.66% expressed no output, 45 % expressed lack of assistance from library staff, 36.66 % expressed slow speed and around one fourth expressed lack of computer systems.

Thanuskodi (2011) reports the results of a study exploring that M.Phil student respondents take the first position in their overall methods of searching e-resources, post graduate student respondents the second, Ph.D. Scholar respondents the last. The study confirmed that respondents are aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-database, and e-journals. It suggests for the improvement in the access facilities with high Internet speed and subscription to more e-resources

at Dr.T.P.M. Library, Madurai Kamaraj University.

OBJECTIVES

To know the frequency of visit to the library by the faculty members in Affiliated college of Periyar University, Salem, Tamilnadu
 To find out the purpose of visit to the Library;
 To find out the average time spent in a week;
 To know the awareness of faculty members with regard to accessing the scholarly information from Print and e-documents.
 To study the type of information required.
 To observe the impact of electronic of electronic over the traditional one;
 To suggest suitable recommendations to improve the scholarly information on electronic resources and services for the benefit of faculties.

METHODOLOGY

The efficiency of any study depends on The selection of adequately represented sample
 The selection of valid and reliable tool (S)The selection of better research methods

The use of appropriate statistical techniques for analysis and interpretations of the data.
 The present study uses both primary data and secondary data. The primary data is collected through interview and questionnaire methods. The required data has been collected from the faculty members of Periyar University Affiliated colleges, Salem.
 The secondary data is collected through Journals, Books, and Annual reports and other institutional publications.

DATA COLLECTION

A structured questionnaire was designed, as given in Appendix, keeping in view the objectives of the study.
 The questionnaire has been designed into five sections namely

Socio Demographic information
 Use of electronic resources
 Use of scholarly Information resources and services
 Information Needs

Table 1: Internet use

S.N.	Internet use	No. of respondents	Total No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	42	45	93.33
2	No	3		6.66

Majority of the respondents 93.33% have mentioned that they were using the internet and only 6.66% of the respondents have mentioned that they were not using the internet.

Table 2: Learning of E-Resources

S.N.	Learning of E-Resources	No. of respondents	Total No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Trial and Error Method	3	42	7.14
2	Guidance from library staff	7		16.66
3	Computer professional	6		14.28
4	Friends	21		50
5	Any other	Nil		Nil

50% of the respondents have mentioned that they have taken the help from their friends for learning an accessing the e-resources. 16.16% of the respondents have taken the guidance from the library staff, 14.28% of them have taken guidance from the computer professionals and 7.14% of the respondents have learned by trial and error method.

Table 3: How long are using the Internet

S.N.	Number of years of Internet use	No. of respondents	Total No. of respondents	Percentage
1	One years	26	42	61.90
2	Two years	10		23.80
3	Three years	3		7.14
4	Four years	3		7.14
5	More than four years	Nil		Nil

61.90% of the respondents have mentioned that they were using the Internet for just one year, 23.80% of the respondents have mentioned that they were using it for two years and 7.14% each have mentioned that they were using the Internet three and four years respectively. No one has mentioned that they have used more than four years.

Table 4: Use of Search Engines

S.N.	Search Engines	No. of respondents	Total No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Google	32	42	90.47
2	Askjeeves	2		4.76
3	Alta vita	1		2.38
4	Info seek	1		2.38
5	Any other	Nil		Nil

90% of the respondents have mentioned that they were using the Google search engine for accessing any piece of information from the Internet, 4.76% of them have mentioned that they were using Askjeeves, one percent each were using AltaVista and info seek respectively.

Table 5: Purpose of using the Internet

S.N.	Purpose of using the Internet	No. of respondents	Total No. of respondents	Percentage
1	For accessing educational information	32	42	76.19
2	For searching job information	9		21.42
3	For entertainment	1		2.38
4	Any other	Nil		Nil

76.19% of the respondents have reported that they have accessed the internet for acquiring educational information, 21.42% of the respondents have mentioned that they were using it for searching job and 2.38% have mentioned that they were using for entertainment.

Table 6: preferred E-Mail

S.N.	preferred E-Mail	No. of respondents	Total No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yahoo	33	42	78.57
2	Hot Mail	2		4.76
3	Rediff Mail	5		11.90
4	Institutional Mail	2		4.76
5	Any other	Nil		Nil

78.57% of the respondents were using the yahoo mail for communication, 11.90% were using rediff mail and 4.76% each were using the hotmail and institutional mail respectively.

Table 7: Preferred format

S.N.	preferred format	No. of respondents	Total No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Print	16	42	38.09
2	Electric	26		61.90

61.90% of the respondents have preferred the electronic version of accessing the information and 38.09% of the respondents have mentioned that they prefer print information rather than electronic information.

Table 8: Frequency of finding the relevant information

S.N.	Frequency of finding the relevant information	No. of respondents	Total No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Always	12	42	28.57
2	Often	24		57.14
3	Occasionally	4		9.52
4	Rarely	2		4.76
5	Never	Nil		Nil

57.14% of the respondents have mentioned that they were finding the information on the web often, 28.57% of the respondents mentioned that they were finding the information always, 9.52% of them have mentioned that they found the information occasionally and 4.76% of the respondents have mentioned that they found the information rarely.

Table 9: If yes, what extend, it is relevant?

S.N.	Relevancy	Nos.	%	Total Nos.	If yes, the extend of relevancy	Total No. of respondents	Total Nos.	%
1	Yes	41	97.61	42	1. Very large Extend	41	12	29.26
2	No	1	2.38		2. Large Extend		12	29.26
					3. Some Extend		16	38.09
					4. Very Less		1	2.38

97.61% of the respondents have mentioned that they found relevant information while accessing the information on web and only 2.33% the respondents have mentioned that the information obtained through web was not relevant again out of 41 respondents, a question was asked what extend the information obtained relevant. 38.09% of the respondents have

mentioned that the information was some extend relevant, 29.26% each have mentioned that the information was very large extend large extend only 2.38% of the respondents have mentioned that the information was not at all relevant.

Table 10: Use of library and information services

S.N.	Use of information service	Rank					Score	Rank
		1	2	3	4	5		
1	Reference service	23	13	5	2	2	188	1
2	Circulation service	13	11	13	5	3	161	3
3	Information display/Notification	7	18	5	11	4	148	5
4	Current awareness service	13	11	10	7	4	157	4
5	Information search service	8	13	7	12	5	142	6
6	E-mail/Internet service	23	12	6	2	2	187	2
7	CD-ROM service	2	9	5	7	22	97	7

In the above table, reference service has secured the highest score of 188 and has got the first rank, E-mail and internet service has secured the second largest score of 187 and has got the second rank, circulation service has secure the third largest score 161 an has got third rank, Current awareness service has secured the score of 157 and has got fourth rank, Information display has secured the score of 148 and has got the fifth rank, Information search service has secured 142 and has got sixth rank and CD-ROM service has secured the last score of 97 and secured the last rank of seventh.

FINDINGS, SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSIONS

There were totally fifty five questionnaires have been distributed and received 48 filed questionnaires. Three questionnaires were discarded due to non filling, mistakes and so on. So totally 45 questionnaires were received, out of 45 respondents, 19 from male (42.22%) and 26 from female (57.77%).

In the above table, reference service has secured the highest score of 188 and has got the first rank, E-mail and internet service has secured the second largest score of 187 and has got the second rank, circulation service has secure the third largest score 161 an has got third rank, Current awareness service has secured the score of 157 and has got fourth rank, Information display has secured the score of 148 and has got the fifth rank, Information search service has secured 142 and has got sixth rank and CD-ROM service has secured the last score of 97 and secured the last rank of seventh.

Out of 45 respondents, 73.33% have mentioned that they were visiting the library daily, 24.44% have mentioned that they were visiting the library weekly and 2.22% have mentioned that they never visited the library.

For opinion on library working hour's sufficiency, 84.44% have mentioned that the library working hours was sufficient and 15.55% have mentioned that the library working hours was not sufficient.

Out of the 45 respondents, 73.33% have mentioned that the internet working hours was sufficient and 26.66% have mentioned that internet working hours was not sufficient.

FINDINGS

From this study, it has been found that majority of the respondents were females.

It has been found that majority of the postgraduate students are aware of internet and e-resources, service facility and very limited students were not aware of internet and e-resources facilities.

Majority of the respondents have taken help from their friend for learning to internet followed by library and informational professionals.

Majority of the students were using the electronic information than print version.

It has been identified that reference service, E-mail/Internet service has secure first and second rank respectively and information display, Information Search Service and CD-ROM Search service has secured the least score has got the last rank.

From the study, it has been identified that books and reference books has got the highest score ranked first and second respectively, whereas journals and CD-ROMs has got lowest score and has got the last rank.

Suggestions

Providing orientation programme to all the department students once in a month or bimonthly.

Library professions need to learn new thing and update their skills according to the latest technologies to provide better

services through web.

E-resources have to be procured more and network based information serviced to be strengthened.

It is the Library professional's duty to identify the relevant information by using various search techniques and the same has to be send to the users through network.

Information display, Information search service and CD-ROM service has to be improved.

It is suggested that more and more electronic resources has to be procured and electronic services has to be extended to the user community.

It suggested that students must be encouraged to visit the library and spend more time to read.

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