

INFORMATION SEARCHING HABITS OF FACULTY MEMBERS OF
ENGINEERING COLLEGES UNDER THE HARYANA AND PUNJAB
UNIVERSITIES: A SURVEY



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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

one and all agree with this saying that information is needed in all walks of life and it is a vital resource for overall development of the civilization. Information plays a significant role in our personal as well as professional life. Information is growing day by day The present paper highlights the investigate Information searching habits of engineers working in the

engineering colleges under the Haryana and Punjab universities. The data of survey was collected through a structured questionnaire. The questionnaires were distributed to 500 respondents, working in 20 engineering colleges (25 each) randomly to the faculties member and research- scholar. 310 filled in questionnaires were returned by the engineers with the response being 62%.

KEYWORDS

Behavior, Engineers, Information, Seeking, User.

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Open J-Gate

1. INTRODUCTION

The study of information seeking behavior can be dated back to the late 1940's. Since that time a large number of studies have been carried out on the various aspects of information seeking behavior of individuals in different fields of specialization. Everyone agree with this saying that information is needed in all walks of life and it is a vital resource for overall development of the society. Information plays a significant role in our personal as well as professional lives. Information is growing day by day. Behavior of users towards seeking information depends upon the type of problem they undertake for research, availability of time, teaching requirements, information need and availability of sources of information. Thomas Wilson projected that "information behaviour covers all aspects of human information behaviour, whether active or passive. Information seeking behaviour is the act of actively seeking information in order to answer a specific query. Information Searching behaviour is the behaviour which stems from the searcher interacting with the system in question. This system could be a technological one, such as the searcher interacting with a search engine, or a manual one, such as the searcher selecting which book is most pertinent to their query. Information Use behaviour pertains to the searcher adopting the knowledge they sought".

According to Wilson "Information behavior may be defined as the more common field of investigation, particularly concerned with the variety of methods people employ to discover". However, different scholars give different philosophies regarding that concept but our research gives us an idea that the most important one is the education system, which has great effect, and captures almost 70% of the mental ability to absorb the things that leads towards student's behavior".

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

With the beginning of information need and seeking behavior research different models were proposed for identifying different steps involved in this process. For example, Kuhlthau (1991) studied as how students searched for information as part of their writing process. She proposed a model that was consisted on seven stages. The stages of Kuhlthau's model are: a) Initiation b) Selection c) Exploration d) Formulation e) Collection f) Presentation. According to Shokeen and Kushik (2003) studied information seeking behavior of Psychologists and Sociologists working in the universities located in Haryana and Delhi. They reported Periodicals are the most used and most important source of information. And Browsing is the first preferred method of searching the required information. Choukhande V G and P.S.G. Kumar (2004) concluded that the purpose of user's visit to library largely depends up on the free time available to them. The university teachers preferred book trade catalogue, bibliographies, indexes, abstracts, addition lists issued by library and periodicals to know current literature in concerned fields. Purnima Th (2005) study reveals that majority of the college faculty members needed information for academic work, whereas university faculty members needed information to update knowledge and for research work. Most of the faculties of colleges and university were unaware of the use of IT, because of lack of infrastructure in libraries. After that Fatima and Singh and Satija, (2008) executed a survey to find the information seeking behaviour of teachers and research scientists working in ICAR institutions of Delhi and Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana. Study was titled "Information Seeking Strategies of Agricultural Scientists Working in the ICAR Institutions in India". Results revealed that library and information centre were the most preferred

sources to meet information requirements of agriculture scientists. Users depended heavily on the computerized information search facility. The working culture of those who need information, facilities available for seeking information and knowledge about them, chances of getting the required information etc. affect the information seeking behaviour of the users. Robinson's (2010) research suggests that when seeking information at work, people rely on both other people and information repositories (e.g., documents and databases), and spend similar amounts of time consulting each (7.8% and 6.4% of work time, respectively; 14.2% in total). However, the distribution of time among the constituent information seeking stages differs depending on the source. When consulting other people, people spend less time locating the information source and information within that source, similar time understanding the information, and more time problem solving and decision making, than when consulting information repositories. Sahoo, Sushanta Kumar & Ramesh, D. B. (2011) study attempts to assess and evaluate the information needs and seeking behavior of information resources of the library by the faculty members of the ICFAI Business School, Hyderabad. Data were collected from 70 Faculty Members for the analysis. Findings indicate that the library professionals are required to help them for maximum utilization of library resources and create awareness amongst the faculty members to access the library resources available to them. Chopkar, H.D. & Khaparde, V.S. (2011) study conducted through survey and reveals that 120(89%) research scholars visit the library. Most of the research scholars visit the library twice in a week. The first preferred sources of information are books following by newspapers and journals. The paper also discusses knowledge and use of electronic sources, problem in finding information and satisfaction of research scholars for library resources and services.

3.OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study is to identify the following, using a sample of engineers:

- 1.To find out the searching habits of faculty members.
- 2.To find out the purpose of searching information.
- 3.To find out the usefull source of the information use by faculty members.

4.SCOPE

The scope of present study was limited to the engineers working in 20 engineering colleges situated in Haryana & Punjab. The sample included the research scholars and faculty members in the field of engineering.

5.METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire based survey method was adopted to gather the data on the information searching habits of the engineers of Haryana and Punjab. The questionnaires were distributed to 500 respondents randomly to the faculties and research- scholar of twenty engineering institute under the Haryana and Punjab universities. 310 filled in questionnaires were returned by the engineers with the response being 62%.

6. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

6.1 FREQUENCY OF VISIT THE LIBRARY

TABLE: 6.1

FREQUENCY	TOTAL USERS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Daily	71	23
Twice a week	155	50
Weekly	54	17
Fortnightly	22	7
Monthly	8	3
Never	0	0
Total no. of Respondents	310	100.00

(Source: Questionnaire)

Table 6.1: reveals the % of the visit made by faculties and research scholars out of 310 respondents 71 users visit their library daily, 155 users visit the library twice in a week, 54 users weekly, 22 users fortnightly, 8 users monthly and 0% user never visit the library. It means all the respondents visit the library. In Fig.-6.1 Highest number of candidates visit the library twice in a week i.e. 50% of the total respondents and lowest category of the respondent visit the library monthly i.e. 3%.

TABLE 6.2 FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT'S AGE

Sr. No.	Age	Frequency	Percent
A	20-30	175	56.45
B	30-40	115	37.10
C	40+	20	06.45
	Total	310	100.0

FIG.-6.2 FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT'S AGE

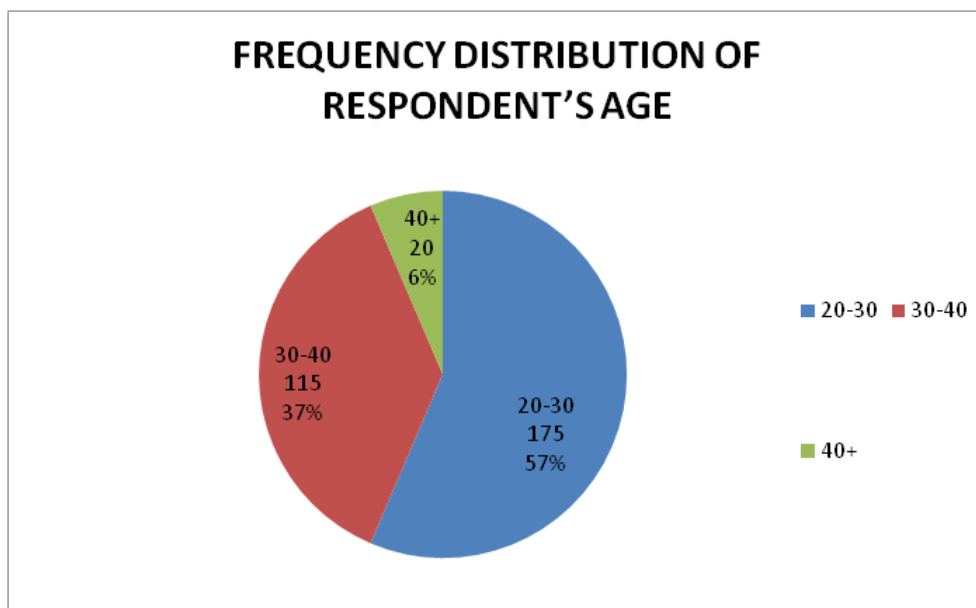


TABLE 6.3 USEFULNESS OF THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Source of information	(RANK ORDER)												Total
	1 st	%	2 nd	%	3 rd	%	4 th	%	5 th	%	6 th	%	
Books	79	25.5	124	40.0	65	21.0	20	6.5	10	3.2	12	3.9	310
Periodicals	128	41.3	56	18.1	69	22.3	45	14.5	7	2.3	5	1.6	310
Newspaper/ Press clipping	34	11.0	58	18.7	56	18.1	128	41.3	18	5.8	16	5.2	310
Govt. Documents	12	3.9	16	5.2	8	2.6	68	21.9	46	14.8	160	51.6	310
Dissertation/ Thesis	41	13.2	49	15.8	101	32.6	18	5.8	26	8.4	75	24.2	310
Conference/ Seminar Proceedings	16	5.2	7	2.3	11	3.5	31	10.0	203	65.5	42	13.5	310
	310		310		310		310		310		310		

Table 6.3 shows that -

- 79(25.5%) out of 310 users keep the books at 1st rank order whereas maximum number of users i.e. 124(40%) ranked it at 2nd and 12(3.9%) users ranked it at 6th.
- Periodicals ranked 1st by maximum numbers of users i.e. 128 and only 5 users keep it at rank 6th.
- Newspaper/press clippings ranked 1st by 34(11%) users while maximum number of users 128 (41.3) ranked it at 4th and 16(5.2%) users ranked it at 6th.
- Govt. Documents have been ranked 6th by maximum number of respondents i.e 160(51.6%).
- Dissertation/ Thesis ranked 3rd by maximum number of users i.e. 101(32.6%) and ranked 1st by 41(13.2) users only.
- Conference/ Seminar Proceedings have been ranked 5th by maximum number of users i.e. 203(65.5%) and only 16(5.2%) users given Rank 1st.

Analysis shows that most of the engineers satisfied with the source of information. It is revealed from above table that periodicals are the first preferred source of information followed by books. 128(41.3) % respondents' shown their 1st preference to periodicals and 79(25.5) % shown their 1st preference to Books. It shows that periodicals are the first preference of the engineers' for getting their information and govt. documents are the last preference source of information. Shokeen, Ashu and Kaushik, Sanjay. K (2003) study also found that 1st preferred source was Journals.

FIG. - 6.3 USEFULNESS OF THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

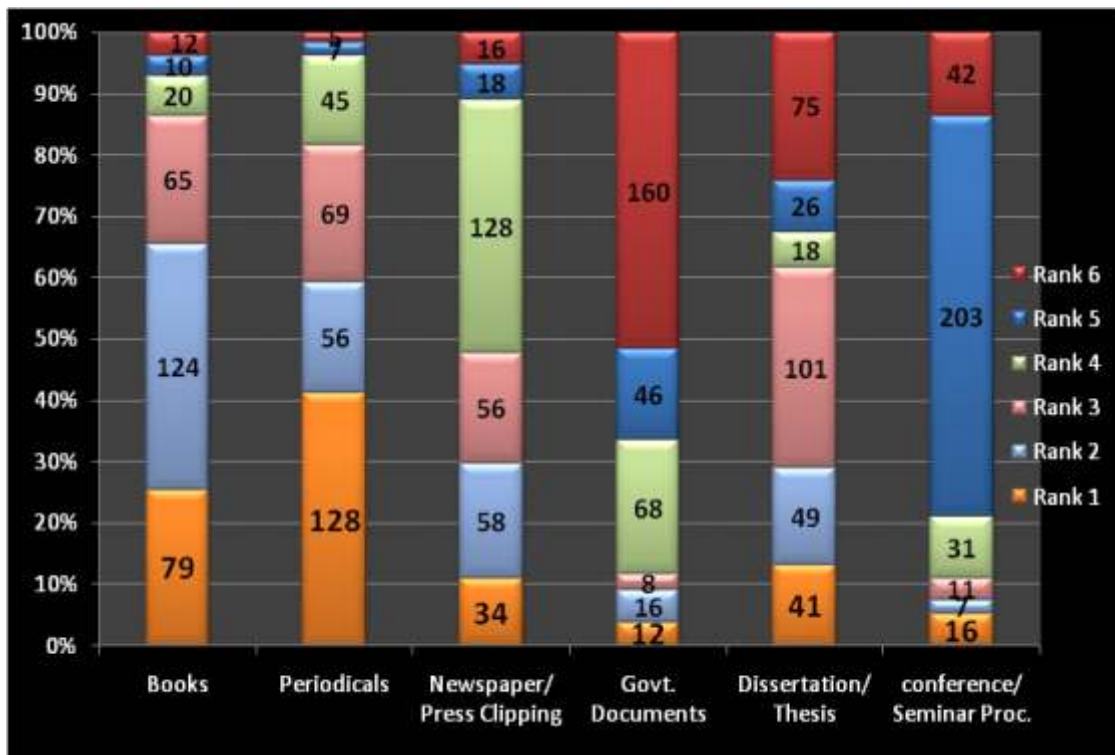


Table 6.4: PURPOSE OF SEARCHING INFORMATION

Purpose of Information Searching	Very Frequently	%	Frequently	%	Sometimes	%	Rarely	%	Never	%	Total
Research Work	90	29.03	122	39.35	95	30.65	3	0.97	0	0	310
Prepare the class notes	98	31.61	101	32.58	76	24.52	35	11.29	0	0	310
General awareness	67	21.61	142	45.81	81	26.13	20	6.45	0	0	310
Preparing lectures	92	29.68	103	33.23	84	27.10	31	10.00	0	0	310
Discussions	46	14.84	67	21.61	125	40.32	72	23.23	0	0	310
Reading Purpose/ Updating Knowledge	98	31.61	122	39.35	79	25.48	11	3.55	0	0	310
Observations and experiments	25	8.06	113	36.45	75	24.19	97	31.29	0	0	310

*(Multiple Answers)

Table –6.4 reveals that highest no. of respondents i.e. 98(31.61%) Search the information very frequently for preparing the class notes and Reading Purpose/ Updating Knowledge, 122(39.35%) users search the information frequently for Research work, 142(45.81%) respondents frequently search the information for general awareness purpose, 103(33.23%) users frequently search the information for preparing lectures, 125(40.32%) respondents sometime search information for discussion, 113(36.45%) users search the information for observations and experiments purpose frequently.

7.CONCLUSIONS:

Most of the engineers satisfied with the source of information. Periodicals are the first preference of the engineers for getting their information and govt. documents is the last preference source of information. It has been concluded that most of the respondents search the information for General Awareness Purpose. Highest number of engineers visit the library twice in a week i.e. 50% of the total respondents and lowest category of the respondent visit the library monthly i.e. 3%.

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