



INFORMATION SOURCES FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS: PERFORMANCE OF CITY CENTRAL LIBRARIES IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Paper focuses on the extent of the availability of various information sources needed by the library members to appear for the competitive examinations. Altogether, there are 27 Competitive Examination and Career Information Centres attached to the City Central Libraries in Karnataka which are catering to the information needs of youths who appear for entrance tests, competitive examinations and seek job opportunities. The study has also covered aspects pertaining to the availability of up-to date collections relevant for the specific competitive examinations. The extent of the availability of information sources on general knowledge, arithmetic, reasoning and English is dealt with based on the responses of the chief librarians.

KEYWORDS: Information sources, Competitive Examinations, City Central Libraries,

INTRODUCTION :

A career information library itself can range from



a minimal collection of career-related resources housed in one section of a single room to a multipurpose facility housing a large collection of resources in all three formats. Historically speaking, few career information specialists were the products of specialized training in this area. The librarian has to develop and maintain career information sources for competitive examinations covering books for specific examinations such as UPSC, KPSC, Bank and Railway examinations. Sources that deal with general knowledge, general aptitude, functional English, numerical ability, reasoning, current events, personality development as well as preparation for competitive examinations.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.To know the availability of up to date collection of books for competitive examinations.
- 2.To know the obtainability of general knowledge books including general aptitude, functional English, numerical ability and reasoning.
- 3.To know the periodicals subscribed in Kannada and English and their use.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher has adopted survey method and prepared a well-structured questionnaire to collect the necessary primary data. A total number of 27 questionnaires were distributed to the Librarians of City Central Libraries and the total response was 100%. The data received has been tabulated and analyzed

using frequency, percentage and interpreted to arrive at the valid findings.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Table-1
Availability of up-to-date collections for specific examinations

SL. NO.	Book for specific examinations	Availability of up-to-date collections for specific examinations					
		Very High	High	Moderate	Slightly	Not at all	Total
1.	UPSC Examinations	21	6	0	0	0	27
		77.8%	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
2.	KPSC Examinations	26	1	0	0	0	27
		96.3%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
3.	Bank Examinations	22	5	0	0	0	27
		81.5%	18.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
4.	Railway Examinations	17	7	0	0	0	24
		63.0%	26.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	89.0%
5.	SSC Examinations	20	5	0	0	0	25
		74.1%	18.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	92.6%
6.	ESE(Engineering Services Examinations	9	2	0	0	0	11
		33.4%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	40.9%
7.	DRDO Examinations	8	1	0	0	0	9
		29.7%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.4%
8.	UGC-NET,K-SLET Etc.	13	3	0	0	0	16
		48.2%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	59.3%
9.	Specific job composite books for (SDA/FDA/PDO)	24	3	0	0	0	27
		88.9%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
10.	Job Oriented books	13	7	3	2	2	27
		48.1%	26.0%	11.1%	7.4%	7.4%	100%
11.	Newspapers and Employment News	27	0	0	0	0	27
		100%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Table 1 depicts the extent of the availability of up-to-date collections in the competitive examinations and career information centres. It is clear from the table that all the 27 career centres of the public libraries in Karnataka possess up-to-date collections for preparing for facing UPSC examination. The extent of the availability of the collection in the centre is indicated by the respondent librarians in higher range. Therefore all the libraries possess adequate sources for UPSC examinations.

As regards availability of up-to-date sources for preparing for KPSC examinations again all the CE and CICs opinion that the information sources in centres is adequate in the higher range.

While referring to the extent of the availability of information sources for facing bank examinations, all the 27 centres possess books useful for them and the extent of availability of sources is in the higher range.

With reference to the extent of availability of information sources for taking placements in Railways, 24 CE and CICs possess adequate sources and the extent is indicated as high.

Further, with regard to the extent of availability of up-to-date sources for preparing for Staff Selection Commission examinations, again 25 of the CE and CICs possess adequate sources in higher range.

Regarding the availability of up-to-date information sources for Engineering Service examinations, it is only 11 out of 27 CE and CICs of the public libraries possess up-to-date career collections for taking Engineering Services examinations. The other CE and CICs do not possess sources relating to Engineering Services examinations. Among the centres, 59.1% do not possess up-to-date sources for Engineering Services examinations.

While referring to the availability of up-to-date sources for taking Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) examinations, only 9 of the CE and CICs possess up-to-date resources collection which account for 33.4% of the centres. These, 9 centres representing 33.4% possess up-to-date collections in the higher range. Whereas 18 of the centres representing 66.6% do not possess sources for taking DRDO examinations.

As regards availability of up-to-date sources for UGC-NET and KSLET examinations, 16 CE and CICs possess up-to-date sources representing 59.3%. While on the other hand, 11 centres representing 41.7% do not possess information sources for UGC-NET and KSLET examinations.

With regards to the availability of up-to-date information sources for facing SDA/FDA.PDO and such other examinations, all the 27 centres possess information sources in the higher range. All the CE and CICs possess up-to-date

sources in the higher range.

As regards the availability of the up-to-date information sources related to various employment opportunities or job details, 20 libraries representing 74.1% possess sources in the higher range. Further, 3 libraries or CE and CICs representing 11.1% possess sources on employment opportunities and job descriptions to a moderate extent. In these of the centres up-to-date sources on employment opportunity is to a moderate extent and in 2(7.4%) the centres it is only to a little extent.

Newspapers also play a vital role in projecting information about career opportunities and placement services. Newspapers and employment news are being subscribed to all to 27 CE and CICs of the city central libraries.

Table-2
Extent of availability of general knowledge books

SL. NO.	Content of sources	Extent of availability of general knowledge books					Total
		Very High	High	Moderate	Slightly	Not at all	
1.	General knowledge	27	0	0	0	0	27
		100%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
2.	Numerical ability	20	4	3	0	0	27
		74.1%	14.8%	11.1%	0.0	0.0	100%
3.	Reasoning and Mental ability	21	3	0	0	0	24
		77.8%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	88.9%
4.	Functional English grammar	23	2	0	0	0	25
		85.2%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	92.6%
5.	Personality skill development	18	6	0	0	0	24
		66.7%	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	88.9%
6.	Communication skill development	16	7	2	0	0	25
		59.2%	26.0%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	92.6%

Table 2 with regard to the extent of the availability of up-to-date general knowledge sources, it is encouraging to note that all the 27 CE and CICs of city central libraries in their holdings possess up-to-date collection of books in highest range.

As regards the availability of up-to-date sources related to numerical ability or arithmetic, 24(88.9%) of the CE and CICs possess sources on general arithmetic in the higher range and 3 of the centres representing 11.1% possess up-to-date sources to a moderate extent.

While referring to the extent of availability of up-to-date sources on reasoning and mental ability test, 24 centres representing 89.9% possess up-to-date information sources in the higher range. On the other hand in only 3 Centres, the sources are not up-to-date in this field.

In the area of functional English and grammar, the extent of up-to-date sources is in the higher ranged in 25 of the centres representing 92.6% In only two of the centres representing 7.4% the sources are not up-to-date in the area of English grammar and functional English.

Further, the extent of up-to-date information sources in the area of personality development in high in 25 (92.6%) of the CE and CICs of City central libraries. In two of the centres the information sources collection on personality development is not up-to-date.

Further, as regards sources covering communication skills development, 23 centres of City Central libraries representing 79.8% possess sources in the higher range. However 2 of the centres representing 7.4% possess up-to-date sources on Communication skills development to a moderate extent and in 2 of the CE and CICs representing 7.4% the sources in this field in particular is not up-to-date.

These, in majority of the CE and CICs the information sources for preparing various competitive examinations and entrance examinations the resources collection is up-to-date to the higher extent except in very few areas such as sources for DRDO examinations UGC-NET and KSLET examinations and Engineering services examinations.

Table-3
Kannada Magazines subscribed to competitive examinations and career information centres

SL. NO.	Kannada Magazines	CE and CICs		
		Yes	No	Total
1.	SpardaChaitra	27	0	27
		100%	0.0%	100%
2.	SpardaJagathu	25	2	27
		92.6%	7.4%	100%
3.	SpardaSpoorthi	25	2	27
		92.6%	7.4%	100%
4.	SpardaVijetha	24	3	27
		88.9%	11.1%	100%

Table 3 shows various popular Kannada magazines being subscribed to CE and CICs. Which are directly related to competitive examinations. Among the 27 libraries, all the libraries are subscribing to Sparda Chaitra. Further, 25 libraries are getting Sparda Jagathu and Sparda Spoorthi, while 24 of the CE and CICs are getting Sparda Vijetha. These are the popular Kannada magazines which carry contents useful for facing competitive examinations. The contents commonly include current events, objective type of questions and answers, general knowledge, essays on current topics of interest and reasoning /mental ability tests.

Table-4
English Magazines subscribed to competitive examinations and career information centres

SL. NO.	English Magazines	CE and CICs		
		Yes	No	Total
1	Civil Service Chronicle	20	7	27
		74.1%	25.9%	100%
2	Competition Affairs	26	1	27
		96.3%	3.7%	100%
3	Competition Success Review	16	11	27
		59.3%	40.7%	100%
4	PrathyogitaDarpan	18	9	27
		66.6%	33.4%	100%

Table 4 depicts various popular English magazines being subscribed to CE and CICs, Which mainly deal with contents relevant to competitive examinations. Among the 27 Libraries, 26 libraries are subscribing to Competition Affairs and 20 libraries are getting Civil Service Chronicle. Further, 16 of them are subscribing to Competition Success Review (CSR) and 18 of the CE and CICs to Prathyogita Darpan. It important here to note that through Competition Success Review (CSR) is a popular periodical for preparing for competitive examinations, 9 of the libraries are not subscribing to Prathyogita Darpan.

Table-5
Popular Periodicals subscribed to competitive examinations and career information centers

SL. NO.	Popular Journals	CE and CICs		
		Yes	No	Total
1.	Down to earth	8	19	27
		29.6%	70.4%	100%
2.	Economic and political weekly	17	10	27
		63.0%	37.0%	100%
3.	Kurukshetra	20	7	27
		74.1	25.9%	100%
4.	Yojana - English	23	4	27
		85.2%	14.8%	100%
5.	Yojana - Kannada	22	5	27
		81.5%	18.5%	100%

Table 5 furnishes the popular periodical being subscribed to the CE and CICs. Among the 27 libraries centres, 23 subscribe to the English version of Yojana and 22 centres subscribe to Kannada version of Yojana. Further, 20 of the CE and

CICs subscribe to Kurukshetra and 17 of them are getting Economic and political weekly. It is only 8 of the CE and CICs out of 27 are getting Down to Earth periodical. The data reveals that a large majority of the CE and CICs are subscribing to popular periodicals such as Yojana, Kurukshetra and Economic and political weekly.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The study reveals that all the 27 CE and CICs are subscribing to newspapers and Employment News for the benefit of users who come for preparing for the competitive examinations and also seek placement or job opportunities. While referring to the availability of up-to-date sources, mainly for preparing for KPSC examinations, again the librarians of all the 27 CE and CICs opinion that the information sources in the centres are adequate in the higher range. While referring to the extent of the availability of information sources for facing bank examinations and the availability of up-to-date information sources for facing SDA/FDA/PDO and such other examinations. Responses reveal that all the 27 centres possess information sources in the higher range

2. As regards the extent of the availability of up-to-date sources on general knowledge, it is encouraging to note that a large segment of librarians feels that sources are adequate in the higher range. Further, it is again encouraging to note that all the 27 CE and CICs of city central libraries in their holdings possess up-to-date collection of books to the higher extent. Among the CE and CICs, 25(92.6%) centres possess books on personality and skill development. Among the 27 CE and CICs, in the 24(89.9%) centres the extent of availability of books on reasoning and mental ability tests and also in 23(85.2%) centres, the extent of availability of books on functional English and Grammar is in the higher range

3. While referring to the popular Kannada magazines being subscribed to CE and CICs which are directly related to competitive examinations, all the 27 libraries are subscribing to Sparda Chaitra. Further, 25 (92.59%) libraries are getting Sparda Jagathu and Sparda Spoorthi, while 24(88.88%) of the CE and CICs are getting Sparda Vijetha. These are the popular Kannada magazines which carry contents useful for preparing for facing competitive examinations.

4. Among the 27 Libraries, 26(96.3%) libraries are subscribing to Competition Affairs and 20(74.1%) libraries are getting Civil Service Chronicle which are in fact popular periodicals for preparing for competitive examinations.

5. Among the 27 CE and CICs, 23(85.2%) subscribe to the English version of Yojana periodical and 22(81.5%) CE and CICs subscribe to Kannada version of Yojana to meet the needs of user community. Yojana is in fact a popular periodicals quite useful for students who prepare for various competitive examinations.

CONCLUSION

Developing collections of books and periodicals mainly for various competitive examinations and entrance tests including sources on general knowledge, general aptitude, arithmetic and functional English is highly adequate from the point of users. Public Libraries in Karnataka play a vital role in providing infrastructure, environment and document sources facilitating thousands of aspirants in preparing for competitive and career examinations like UPSC, KPSC, Bank Examinations, Railway Examinations, Specific job composite books for (SDA/FDA/PDO) UGC-NET, SLET, etc. As many of the youths after completing their bachelor and master degree courses find it difficult to get themselves prepared for the various entrance tests and walk-in interviews. Such of these persons have to rely upon public libraries for keeping themselves abreast of the recent developments.

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