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USE OF RESOURCES IN GULBARGA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, GULBARGA

Mamata Mestri
Assistant Librarian (SG) , Gulbarga University , Kalaburagi , Karnataka.

ABSTRACT

Information is useful and effective, if it is successfully communicated and disseminated and used properly. Of course, there are many forms of information sources, through which the information is published, collected, stored, disseminated and used. For libraries it has become essential to assess the usability of the information sources by the users and acquire the same. Hence, present study is made to assess the use of the information sources by faculty and students in Gulbarga University Library, Gulbarga. Total 300 library users were surveyed with questionnaire. It was found that even though there are large numbers of electronic resources subscribed in the library, they are not used properly. The frequency of visits of users is also lower. Hence, it has suggested to popularize the use of e-resources in the library and also it is suggested to the users to visit the library frequently to use the information sources in the library.

KEYWORDS:*information sources , electronic resources , library frequently .*

INTRODUCTION:

There is no field of human activity wherein information is not a component. Whether it is education, research and development, agriculture, business and industry, the information has to be acquired, processed, stored, retrieved and disseminated for communication. Information is for use. It is capable of converting natural resources into artifacts and consumable products. Information generation, dissemination, transfer and communication take places between people through channels and media in a variety of contexts and in different formats. The formats may include text books, manuals, handbooks, theses, dissertations, research reports, bibliography, biography, dictionary, encyclopedia, yearbooks, almanacs, digital documents or any other such formats.

The information needs of different kinds of users are varied. In the sense, the users depending their requirements, needs the information. For instance, the students need information pertaining to their curriculum, teachers want information related to curriculum and its present developments, the business concerns needs information pertaining to finance, production, manufacturing, marketing etc of particular products, Scientists/research scholars need information pertaining to the development of information related to their pin pointed research topic, Farmers need information pertaining to the climate, soils, pests, pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, cultivation, seasons, etc. In

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this way information proved to be a valuable resource in every one's life.

In assessing the user needs and library use by the users, Seetharama (1997) stated that in the design of information services/products, one of the initial steps is to determine the subject, scope of the product. For this purpose, information needs of the potential users needs to be studied. This is quite easy in the case of specialists belonging to a particular discipline or disciplines. To identify the user needs there is need for the User Needs Study through User Survey.

Today, the libraries are means to get information. Because, the library stores the information in different formats mentioned above. A library must consider the needs of its users, through the use of the existing documents, and anticipating future needs of the user while building collection of the documents in the library. Therefore, the users of the library are playing an important role in using of the documents in the library. Hence, there is need to study the use studies of the library, so as to make future decisions pertaining to book selection, technical processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of the information. Dissemination of information involves providing exact information to the users directly in a personal way; or by guiding the users to find out themselves the information they need from various sources of information (Kumar, 2006). The sources of information includes different formats of documents, through which, information is represented. They are books, journals, magazines, newspapers, biography, dictionaries, encyclopedia, bibliography, handbooks, manuals, digital documents including CDs, internet, online and offline databases, etc. Present libraries are passing through an exciting phase of transformation under the impact of Information Technology. The machine readable databases, online retrieval, microforms amazing storage capabilities of CD-ROM discs etc., are some of the key contributions which have had their impact on library services. This gives new ways to store information in form of magnetic storage, microforms, video discs (Sharma, 1997). Further, internet is also a powerful information source of the twenty-first century, where one can find any required information. It is noted that it has become problem for the present user on what to use to get the required information for their requirements. It also helps the library professionals to assess the selection and ordering of the information sources for the library. Hence, the present study is made in Gulbarga University Library, Gulbarga to assess the use of resources in the library.

GULBARGA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY:

Gulbarga University, Gulbarga was established in the year 1980 (Karnataka) since its establishment, the University is providing quality education to the students for fulfilling their aspirations and dreams in life. At present there are about 2536 students are studying in various post-graduate courses, approximately 716 Research Scholars registered for the research courses and about 278 faculty members are working in the University.

The library of Gulbarga University Gulbarga aims to serve the information needs of its Research scholars & faculty members. At present the library have collection of different kinds of documents as under:

Table No. 1. Collection of Information Sources in the Library

Sl. No.	Information Sources	No's
1	Books and Non-Book Materials	312565
2	Rare and Classic Materials	4630
3	Indian Journal Subscribed	368
4	CD Subject Databases	16
5	e-ShodhSindhu Journals	4500
6	E-Books from OCLC	89
7	Theses and Dissertations	5123
8	Annual Reports and Newsletters	4544
9	Journal Back Volumes	48700
10	E-Books Library	187000

The library subscribed about 14 Daily Newspapers and 123 Magazines both in English and Kannada languages. Further, the library also subscribed about 368 research journals in various subject disciplines regularly. The collection of the library is open access. At present there are 120 computer systems working in the library to provide the internet facilities to the users. The library is open from morning 8-00 am to evening 7-00 pm on all working days. Further the library is managed by a full-time professional University Librarian with 06 Deputy Librarians, 01 Assistant Librarian and 2 Library Assistants. It is estimated that more than 350 users visit the library for their information needs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:
The present study is made:
1.To study the frequency of visit of the users to the library
2.To know the usability of the primary source documents such as Journals, Theses, Dissertations, Proceedings of the Conferences/ Conventions/ Seminars/ Symposia, etc.
3.To know the use of reference materials such as Pictorial Atlas, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Biographies etc in the library
4.To study whether the users are aware about the Computers and internet use to get the information
5.To know the opinions of the library users about providing improved services and development of the library.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:
The present research study was begun with the literature search. The researcher referred Library and Information Science Abstract (LISA) from 1969 to 2012 and online LISA searching, leading to regional, national and international journals and books published in the fields of Use Studies, User Studies, Use of Information Sources and different Information Sources.

The Survey Method is one of the most popular data collection methods in Social Sciences. The study is adopted survey method for the collection of primary data. Questionnaire is by far the most important instrument used for the data collection. The questionnaire was addressed to the research scholars and the faculty members of all courses studying in Gulbarga University, Gulbarga.

The questionnaire was constructed using different scales like dichotomous, multiple choice, descriptive and rating. In addition to this, the researcher was adopted personal observation technique to ascertain the information on user perception, resource collection of the library, information seeking behaviour of users and use of the different kinds of information sources in the library. The findings from the study are discussed as under.

FINDINGS FROM THE STUDY:
The following are the findings derived from the present study:
1.At present there are about 2536 students are studying in various post-graduate courses, approximately 716 Research Scholars registered for the research courses and about 278 faculty members are working in the University.
2.Totally 50 faculty members working in different subjects and 250 research scholars were selected for making the present study.
3.On frequency of the visit to the library, about 44% of users visit the library daily, followed by 36.3% users visit the library twice in a week and the remaining 19.7% of the users visit the library weekly.
4.It is noted that about 57.3% users read the Indian journals, about 12.7% users read only foreign journals and the remaining 30% use all the kinds of the journals.
5.On their approach to use the research journals, 66% of the total users are searching the journals through the contents page, about 22.7% users are searching through index and the remaining 11.3% users are searching the journals through other kinds of approach.
6.The dissertations, research reports and project reports play an important role in providing primary and valuable information. The usefulness of these kinds of information sources derived depending the information

needs and use of these information sources. It is emphasized that all the respondents covered under the present study are using theses and dissertations in the library.

7. On the use of theses and dissertations, 49.7% users searches the catalogue of the theses and dissertations, about 30.3% users scan the theses and dissertations directly, to choose the needed and the remaining 20% users will refer the theses and dissertations on the recommendations of others such as teachers, friends in the class etc.

8. Of the 300 respondents, 87.00% (243) are using the conference and seminar proceedings, whereas the remaining 13.0% (57) are not using the proceedings.

9. Regarding their approach to use the proceedings, as expressed by 243 users, who use the proceedings, 87.24% are using the same through search of contents page and the remaining 12.75% are using the same through search of indexes.

10. As 57 users are not using the proceedings of conferences, conventions and seminars, of which 28.07% (16) have stated that they are not available and the remaining 71.93% (41) have stated that they are not useful.

11. It is noted that the all the users use the textbooks. Of all the users (300) covered under the study, 57.3% (172) users use Indian books followed by, only 12.7% (38) of the users use only foreign books and the remaining 30.0% (90) users use both foreign and Indian books.

12. On the approach to use the text books, about 44% users covered under the study have responded that they search textbooks through searching of contents page, 36.3% users search textbooks through the searching of subject, keywords and class numbers and the remaining 19.7% users responded that they search textbooks by searching index of the book.

13. 81.7% (245) of the users are using dictionaries and encyclopedias, whereas remaining 18.3% users use the dictionaries and encyclopedias.

14. Of the total 245 (100%) users who use the dictionaries and encyclopedias, it is noted that only 15.5% users refer the general dictionaries and encyclopedias, about 53.5% users refer subject dictionaries and encyclopedias and the remaining 31.0% are using both kinds of dictionaries and encyclopedias.

15. Of the above stated 245 (100%) respondents who use dictionaries and encyclopedias, 62.0% of the users are using the dictionaries by searching alphabets page, whereas the remaining 37.9% are using dictionaries and encyclopedias by subject index.

16. It is surprising to note that all the faculty members and research scholars have stated that they do not use bibliographies.

17. All the respondents who do not use bibliographies, the reasons stated by the all respondents are that they are less useful for the information requirements.

18. It is interesting to note that every user in the library will refer and use the Manuals and Handbooks.

19. About 58.0% users search manuals and handbooks by contents page, about 17.67% users use the handbooks and manuals through searching of title and subject and the remaining 24.33% users use the index for using the Handbooks and manuals.

20. Only 16.0% (48) are using biographies, whereas the remaining 84.0% are not using biographies.

21. Of the 48 (100%) respondents, 54.1% are using biographies by contents page followed by, 20.8% are using biographies by subject, about 16.6% are using biographies by title page and the remaining 8.3% are using biographies by index.

22. Of the total respondents who do not use the biographies, 4.4% have stated that there is shortage of time, whereas the remaining 95.6% (241) have stated that they are not useful to them.

23. Of the total respondents covered under the study, 86.3% (259) are using the internet in the library, whereas the remaining 13.6% (41) are not using the internet.

24. Among the total 300 (100%) users covered under the present study, 86.33% (259) have agreed that internet is useful information source, whereas the remaining 13.67% (41) have not agreed to the same.

25. On the use of different applications of internet by users, it is noted that 64.6% are using electronic mail, about 15.3% are using search engines, about 16.3% are using discussion forums, 86.3% are using information sources, about 64.0% are using web logs, commercial web sites and 49.3% are using other types of internet utilities.

26.79.3% of the users are using e-ShodhSindhu electronic resources, whereas the remaining 20.6% are not using these electronic resources.

27.All the respondents have agreed that they need information literacy training to access and use the internet, ICT applications and electronic resources.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE STUDY:
Following suggestions are made from the present study.

1.Frequency of Visit of the faculty members and research scholars is lower. Hence, there is need to increase the visit of the users to the library.

2.Library timings are short, as many of the respondents have stated the same. Hence, it is recommended to increase the library timings.

3.Compared to other services there is less awareness of the users in ICT applications and use of e-resources. Even though the information literacy programmes organized by the library professionals, still their usage is lower due to lack of their popularity. Hence, the use of e-resources should be popularized and encouraged.

CONCLUSION:

Users are an important component of a modern library, because it is the user who draws maximum benefit from the library. Therefore it is very much pertinent to a library to have in-depth information about the users, the needs of the users and approaches to the use of information sources. This will help to assess the future needs of the library in terms of documents and library services.

A Library or an information centre or system can be successful if the user community is actively involved in the design of the system from the initial stages. Similarly the detailed requirements of the specific information services can be identified only after thorough analysis of the user needs and present information-seeking behaviour of the community. Results of the analysis of users' needs and use of library resources should be considered for the improvement of existing facilities and services. Thus frequent surveys for assessment of user needs may be said to be indispensable for the effective and efficient utilization of library, information centre, information system and their services. Hence, the present study is useful in assessing the user needs and collection of information sources in Gulbarga University Library.

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