



A study on information use pattern by faculty of self-financing college

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ABSTRACT

Information usage studies are like part of library professionals from twentieth century to identify the effective usage of information resources available in their libraries. This study investigates the information use pattern by the students and faculty of 16 Engineering College Libraries in Tiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu. A well structured questionnaire has been formulated and distributed among the students and faculty in order to ascertain the information use pattern i.e. purpose of visit to the library, purpose of use of information sources, access and use of e-journals, preferred file formats, and role of library in promoting information resources. In total 2176 questionnaires were distributed among the students and 480 faculty members and 1793 and 396 filled in questionnaires were received back respectively. The rate of response was 82.39% and 82.50% respectively. The study revealed that 57.22% of students are male and remaining 42.78% are female. It is found that 97.82% of students are below the age of 22-23 years and 27.33% of students fall in the age group of 20-21 years. 44.51% students use information resources for the purpose of preparation of examinations and 10.54% use information for preparing for the seminars. 72.62% of students access and use e-journals for their academic activities and 27.38% do not access and use. 41.17% of students use e-journals very rarely and 24.12% of students use e-journals fortnightly. 1116 students most prefer PDF file format. The study also revealed that 102 (25.76%) faculty members visit the library daily while 178 members (44.95%) visit weekly thrice followed by 68 (17.17%) who visit twice in a week. While 108 faculty members (27.27%) visit the library for the purpose of borrowing books, 84 (21.21%) visit the library for reference. 116 faculty members (29.29%) visit for accessing Internet/ e-resources and 46 (11.62%) to get photocopy services. 28 faculty members (7.07%) visit the library to read newspapers and magazines. It was observed that 97.22% of the faculty members are accessing e-journals and 29.29% of them are using daily while 42.42% use once in a week. 18.69% of them use e-journals fortnightly and 9.60% once in a month. 248 faculty members preferred PDF file format while 22 of them preferred HTML followed by 118 with MS-Word. It was revealed that 312 faculty members (78.79%) were browsing the Internet

for four hours and more per week and 46 of them (11.61%) browsed three hours per week. 26 of them (6.57%) browsed two hours per week and 12 (3.03%) browsed an hour a week. The findings of the study would put light on the important data and insight into the current state of practices of students and their understanding about information use pattern. The outcome and suggestions of the study would be beneficial for them to take appropriate measures to improve their information use pattern.

1. INTRODUCTION

Information is a key resource for the progress and development of any organization. Libraries are one of the fundamental and most important gateways for information and knowledge exchange. The information and communication technology has helped in creating, collecting and sharing the information all over the world in electronic formats. Electronic information is now an integral part of libraries helping the users in learning and for research purposes. All the libraries should update with technological developments and help its users by providing updated information.

1.1. USE OF INFORMATION

Everybody needs information for some purpose or the other. When someone wants to travel, he needs information about routes timings of the transport service hotel facilities and he may gather this information from friends or form a travel agency. Someone may also go to a library and collect this information from some formal reference source like tourist guides and railways time table.

People seek information for various reasons. Consider the following typical examples of information needs a wide cross section of people.

1.1.1. EDUCATION

All types of students need information for various reasons. Mainly they use information for their academic purpose. For research work, project work etc.

1.1.2. RESEARCHER

Researchers use data for various purposes and are mentioned below.

- a. To carry on with new development in his space of interest

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- b. To get aware of the state of the art of the topic.
- c. To gather specific piece of knowledge and data required at totally different stages of his works. Maintaining with current development is one amongst key factors for fulfillment within the carrier of analysis. These activities not only update his data however conjointly stimulate his thought method and infrequently could recommend new ideas and ways of experiments.

Before a research worker decides on a brand new project he has to undertake thorough literature search, i.e. he examines the varied documents containing info on the subject .He will do this to.

1. Get aware of the state of information within the area of interest (i.e., State of art.)
2. To identify any shortcomings in the existing information or knowledge and therefore to asses further Scope of work.
3. Avoid the doable duplication of labor and therefore save effort and cash.

1.1.3. PROFESSIONALS

Professionals like medical and legal practitioners, desires info to pursue their course. The medical practitioner cannot afford to ignore new development within the medicine field. If they ignore it would be fatal to patients. Equally legal practitioners should confine bit with the case law and judicial finding to make sure honest justice. Juries need information to access earlier finding or case precedents before announcing judgments.

Engineers and individuals require information for resolving technical difficulties faced by them in the workplace. Managers in business and industrial Organization would like info to change them to require applicable call about issue having each short term and long implication. They require additional data for taking decisions involving social control issue.

LIBRARY /INFORMATION SERVICE

Modern libraries and knowledge Center provides a range of documentation and knowledge service to support tutorial a part of students, analysis activity and every one alternative development programs of presidency and none government establishments. There has been an amazing increase within the volume and form of such service and merchandise. Totally different library or info service, that utilized by students like research worker or others, these area unit as follows.

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REFERENCE SERVICE

Reference services facilitate the users to outline and establish their question, bearing in mind however they meant to use the knowledge from the supply. The reference personnel then inform him what catalogue directories, files, secondary publication or information to relevant info for himself explaining, if necessary, however the user ought to move his search. instead, themselves do the hunt for the user, if desired thus by him i.e. the users. For each of those varieties of searches, reference tools or aids without delay on the market within the library or info units, that do students conjointly use.

LENDING SERVICE

Lending service is incredibly vital for users notably students. Students would like numerous documents for his or her tutorial purpose. These documents they will issue in library for a few amount for condition, this is often known as disposal service.

REFERRAL SERVICE.

Referral services may be distinguished from reference service. Referral Service doesn't provided the user with the documents or info truly required for his question however refers him to the supply like secondary publication.

CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE.

Current awareness service is used mainly to keep the user updated on the current information or interest that has recently been revealed and received or establish by the libraries or info units, notably in specialized field of study. Different ways of providing CAS to users are mentioned below.

1. Displaying current received documents.
2. Notifying the receipt of latest arrival.
3. Routing of journal and
4. Publication of house current awareness bulletins

SELECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The SDI may be a sort of current awareness service, the target of that is to stay users of the system info of recent development in their various areas of interest while not overburdening
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them with non relevant and unwanted documents. It provides notification of recent primary documents; notifications depend on a match between reader's interest profile and document profit.

LITERATURE SEARCH SERVICE

On few occasions, users may need to know everything that has been published on a subject. This is because the user wants to know the state of the art before starting a new research or project. These information requirements can be satisfied by doing a comprehensive search in bibliography indexing and abstracting publications which is termed as literature searching.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY SERVICE

The primary responsibility of library is to supply the users with text (Original documents) .If the initial document aren't obtainable within the library, then either it borrows from another (Inter library loan) or acquire their photocopies.

Inter Library Loan is one of the features of the document delivery service that existed even in the late 19th century.

REPROGRAPHY SERVICE

The demand for photocopies is increasing day by day. Libraries and data center so developed facilities to supply reprography service. The PPC aren't just copying device, however they'll additionally turn out multiple copies of documents. Photocopies of documents are governed by copyright law.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE WORK.

A Library is one of the vital sources of knowledge. Teachers and books are the two essential elements of education. An ideal library provides valuable support to education and education system is dependent on good libraries. Any form of educational work without libraries would become meaningless.

University is an important seat of higher learning and the library attach to the body. Its role in education is very significant. The main objective of libraries attached to Institutions of higher learning is to provide information Service to academics community which includes, faculties, Researchers and Students to meet their academic and research

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requirement. The planning and designing of a library require as systematic study of the needs and requirements of users for whom the library, its resource and service meant. In view of which, the user studies have occupied a considerable bulk of LIS literature.

Academic libraries in engineering institutions are prominent information organization and play a crucial role in fulfilling the information needs of users. Engineering education is a skilful, artful and constructive education. Technical education plays an important role in the social and economic development of our nation. Engineers need latest information in their subjects to support their learning, teaching, and other research requirements. The library professionals working these institutions should pay importance to acquire appropriate and need based literature in those subjects to meet the information needs of their users. Identifying information needs and usage pattern of information resources, facilities and services of the users of engineering institutions is important for the development of the library and information system.

The needs, requirements and information use pattern of Students at the University and College level have not received much attention of researchers in India. Hence in the present thesis an attempt has been made investigating the Information use pattern of students and faculties and also library service of few Universities in Tamil Nadu.

All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), an apex organization is responsible for the planning and the overall development of technical education in India. In Tamil Nadu, Anna University was established in 1978 by the Government of Tamil Nadu to promote a planned and sustainable development of technical education consistent with State and National policies. The University offers undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. programmes in the fields of engineering, management and computer applications. Present, there are colleges affiliated to the University. The colleges are categorized as Government and private self-financing based on the type of funding. A few colleges are classified as Minority Linguistic and Minority Religious based on the minority status of languages and religions.

METHODOLOGY

Integrated qualitative and quantitative methodologies are designed for the research. The questionnaire method was used for the present study to collect the necessary primary

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data, keeping in view the objectives of the study. For the purpose of data collection, a structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the target users, further informal interview was conducted with the target users to ensure classify and authority of data the stratified random sampling technique was used in administrating the questionnaire and interview with the respondents.

METHOD OF SAMPLING

The proportionate random sampling method has to be applied in this study for selecting the sample respondents. However for selecting respondents belonging to each stratum, convenient sampling procedure has been used.

The data obtained were tabulated and analyzed using the statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS). The hypothesis were tested and findings were drawn in the light of the objectives of the institution finally the results were reported in the form of thesis.

The tables, charts and figures were used wherever necessary to make the presentation clear and lucid the following statistical techniques were used, frequency, percentage, chi-square etc.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Introduction

Electronic resources represent associate degree more and more necessary part of the gathering building activities of libraries. "Electronic resources" are those materials that need pc access, whether or not through a private pc, mainframe, or hand-held mobile device. They will either be accessed remotely via the web or regionally. Most frequently available types are:

E-journals

E-books

Full-text databases

Indexing and abstracting databases

Reference databases (biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, etc.)

Numeric and applied math databases

E-images

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E-audio/visual resources

The electronic resources is inheritable via purchase or license, free from the net, born digital or multiple format materials (e.g., ROM combined with a book). Electronic resources present variety of challenges not encountered with the choice and acquisition of conventional analog materials and its well for the library to develop clear policies and processes for the choice and management of such resources. This can offer clarity to workers and make sure that electronic resources at intervals the library are developed with due thought of value, technical feasibility, licensing, access and preservation needs, and constraints.

Collection policy statement

While traditional assortment development criteria, like subject, level and audience apply to the choice of most electronic titles, the management of this format is additional advanced and in and of itself, it's sensible observe to develop a supplementary policy that addresses specific format connected problems. Such a policy ought to be utilized in conjunction with the additional ancient assortment development policy and not in isolation.

The policy ought to offer steering to help selectors in establishing the library's expectations and preferences in relation to:

CONCLUSION

The study indicates that the engineering students seek diverse information from varied sources for different purposes thus making it difficult to maintain support for the idea of a single mode of formal information channel. With the increasing popularity of web-based access to traditional library resources, libraries which are the main facilitators in the scholarly communication system are caught in between the producers and the end-users.

The study revealed that the electronic resources are most used resources among the respondents. It has been analysed that electronic journals are significantly playing a major role in disseminating the current, updated and pinpointed information. The fast growth in the information and communication technology and electronic resources has changed the traditional method of research, storage, retrieval and communication of scholarly information. It is concluded that the engineering college libraries need to be upgraded with

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more e-resources and digital infrastructure to meet the increasing information requirements of the faculty members and students.

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