

**USE OF LIBRARY INFORMATION SOURCES, SEARCH
METHODS AND CHALLENGES IN HYDERABAD
KARNATAKA REGION: A STUDY**

SURESH SHARANAPPA¹ & R.SARANGAPANI²

¹Research Scholar, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

²Professor and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Received: 20 Dec 2017

Accepted: 27 Dec 2017

Published: 10 Jan 2018

ABSTRACT

In this article, an attempt has been made to study the results of survey of students and teachers of degree colleges in six districts of Hyderabad Karnataka region on the use of library sources and its searching habits. A total of 1390 respondents are covered (students and teachers) using survey method. Results reported and conclude that there is a need for proper orientation and technology enabled access to the users for better use of information sources and searching habits of users.

KEYWORDS: *User Study, College Libraries, Use of Library, Information Sources*

INTRODUCTION

User research in Library and Information Science is gaining importance since early 1960's. The situation can be best illustrated by the results achieved by the ambitious project of Bath University (1968) named "Information Requirements Of the Social Sciences (INFROSS)" in 1968, which investigated into the information requirements of social scientists in government departments, social workers, school and college teachers of Great Britain. But, there appears to be more number of user studies reported in the field of science and technology than from the social sciences and humanities.

Use is the purpose of library and a key component of library system. The success of library system depends on users. Assessing user needs is complex phenomenon which differs in different environment from individual to individual group to group and community to community. The knowledge of users is one of the prerequisites for the proper planning and development of information resources and services in libraries. This study highlights the use of information sources, search methods and challenges of users are accessing information to support their educational needs.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are to determine

- Time spent on reading Information sources ,
- Frequency of using Library information to support your academic and research activities,

- Methods adopted for searching information from information sources and
- Problems encountered in the library.

METHODOLOGY

In order to determine the extent of use of library sources and searching habits of faculty and students serving in the Government Degree Colleges, Private Aided Colleges, Engineering Colleges and Medical Colleges and Private unaided colleges of Hyderabad Karnataka region, survey method is adopted. Questionnaire tool under survey method is used to collect the data from faculty and students in which 1455 questionnaires were distributed out of which 1390 are duly filled and responded.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this study, a total of 1390 students and teachers are covered from Government Degree Colleges, Private Aided Colleges, Engineering Colleges and Medical Colleges of Hyderabad Karnataka region (Table 1).

Table 1: Designation of the Respondents

		District	DESIGNATION		Total
			Student	Teacher	
Gulbarga	Count		249	121	370
	Percentage		67.3%	32.7%	100.0%
Bidar	Count		201	66	267
	Percentage		75.3%	24.7%	100.0%
Raichur	Count		159	68	227
	Percentage		70.0%	30.0%	100.0%
Bellary	Count		223	86	309
	Percentage		72.2%	27.8%	100.0%
Koppal	Count		82	51	133
	Percentage		61.7%	38.3%	100.0%
Yadgir	Count		59	25	84
	Percentage		70.2%	29.8%	100.0%
Total	Count		973	417	1390
	Percentage		70.0%	30.0%	100.0%

Designation of Respondents is shown in table 1 by districts of Hyderabad Karnataka region. To determine the perceptions of students and teachers towards use of library sources and their searching habits, 70% of students and 30% of teachers are covered in the study with a total population of 1390 respondents.

Table 2: Age of the Respondents

Type of Colleges		AGE				Total
		20-30 Years	31-40 Years	41-50 Years	51 years and above	
Govt./ Aided Degree Colleges	Count	364	90	22	17	493
	Percentage	73.8%	18.3%	4.5%	3.4%	100.0%
Engineering / Medical Colleges	Count	292	48	42	17	399
	Percentage	73.2%	12.0%	10.5%	4.3%	100.0%
Private & Unaided Colleges	Count	317	157	22	2	498
	Percentage	63.7%	31.5%	4.4%	.4%	100.0%
Total	Count	973	295	86	36	1390
	Percentage	70.0%	21.2%	6.2%	2.6%	100.0%

Among the type of colleges covered in the study, it is categorized into three groups i.e. Government/ Aided Degree Colleges (N=493), Engineering / Medical Colleges (N=399) and Private & Unaided Colleges (N=498). Irrespective of type of colleges, majority of the respondents belongs to age group of 20-30 years (70%) and 21.2% of the respondents are in the age group of 31-40 years only (Table 2).

Table 3: Time spent on using Information Sources in the Library

District		Time spent			Total
		1-2 hours	3-4 hours	5-6 hours	
Gulbarga	Count	320	50	0	370
	Percentage	86.5%	13.5%	.0%	100.0%
Bidar	Count	230	35	2	267
	Percentage	86.1%	13.1%	.7%	100.0%
Raichur	Count	193	34	0	227
	Percentage	85.0%	15.0%	.0%	100.0%
Bellary	Count	262	45	2	309
	Percentage	84.8%	14.6%	.6%	100.0%
Koppal	Count	119	14	0	133
	Percentage	89.5%	10.5%	.0%	100.0%
Yadgir	Count	77	7	0	84
	Percentage	91.7%	8.3%	.0%	100.0%
Total	Count	1201	185	4	1390
	Percentage	86.4%	13.3%	.3%	100.0%

Table 3 shows Time spent on reading Information sources per day by the respondents under study. Almost all the faculty indicated that the time spent by them on reading Information sources per day is 1-2 hours only (86.4). Comparatively 13.3% of students spend 3-4 hours on reading information sources and only 0.3% of them spend more than 5-6 hours per day.

Table 4: Frequency of using Information Sources to support your Academic and Research Activities

Frequency of using information sources	Very Frequently		Frequently		Sometimes		Rarely		Never	
Books	498	35.8	744	53.5	148	10.6				
Scientific journals/ Periodicals	57	4.1	284	20.4	426	30.6	613	44.1	10	.7
Conference/seminars proceedings	10	.7	59	4.2	127	9.1	411	29.6	783	56.3
Thesis and Dissertations	9	.6	67	4.8	106	7.6	203	14.6	1005	72.3
Reference sources (Dictionaries, Encyclopedia, Handbooks, Yearbooks, and Directories etc.)	274	19.7	601	43.2	456	32.8	59	4.2		
Indexing and Abstracting Sources	2	.1	89	6.4	70	5.0	274	19.7	504	36.3
Library catalogue (OPAC)/ Union Catalogue			39	2.8	309	22.2	117	8.4	547	39.4
Newspapers and Magazines	452	32.5	757	54.5	181	13.0				
Internet services	131	9.4	286	20.6	199	14.3	64	4.6	310	22.3
CD-ROM educational databases	965	69.4	50	3.6	261	18.8	246	17.7	408	29.4
Experts in the field & colleagues	17	1.2	350	25.2	572	41.2	451	32.4		
Librarian skills or staff of the library in helping	349	25.1	865	62.2	163	11.7	13	.9		
N-LIST E-RESOURCES (INFLIBNET)	151	10.9	652	46.9	301	21.7	102	7.3	184	20.3

Frequency of using Books to support your academic and research activities is measured in five scales i.e. Very Frequently, Frequently, Sometimes, And Rarely and Never. It is found from that 35.8% of respondents very frequently use books to support your academic and research activities and where as 53.5% of they use frequently rating in scale four.

Only one fourth of the respondents are frequently using journals in scale four, whereas 30.6% of them are using journals sometimes. As compared to books, the usage of journals is less in the college setup. Thus, the frequency of using journals by respondents is less as compared to books. The majority of the respondents never uses conference proceedings (56.3%) and Thesis and dissertations (72.3%). Nearly half of the respondents frequently use reference sources (43.2%). N-LIST refers to "National Library and Information services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content" Nearly half (46.9%) of them are frequently using NLIST e-resources and since these e-resources are significant for their education, there is a need for role of librarians to be more active to ensure better use of NLIST e-resources.

Table 5: Designation of Respondents Vs Books -Searching Methods

Designation	Books-Searching Methods				
		Library Catalogue	OPAC	Directly Browsing Shelf	Seeking help-library
Total	Frequency	472	218	873	1208
	Percentage	33.9	15.6	62.8	86.9

In the college setup, it is interesting to note that the majority of the respondents prefers to contact librarian to get their required documents and other modes of gathering information are found to be less. Library catalogue (33.9%) and directly browsing shelf (62.8%) are the other two popular methods adopted by the students and teachers in searching information from books. However, very few use OPAC (15.6%) as most of the college libraries are not automated (Table 8).

Table 6: Problems encountered in using Library

Problems	To greater extent		To Full extent		To some extent		To Little extent		Not at All	
Lack of arrangement of books on shelves	69	5.0	99	7.1	388	27.9	581	41.8	253	18.2
Lack of assistance from library staff	24	1.7	72	5.2	272	19.6	826	59.4	196	14.1
Shortage of working hours of library	204	14.7	292	21.0	656	47.2	218	15.7	20	1.4
Improper lighting & ventilation			73	5.3	471	33.9	398	28.6	448	32.2
Lack of Computers/ ICT infrastructure	667	48.0	228	16.4	355	25.5	140	10.1		
Insufficient Internet bandwidth	714	51.4	103	7.4	69	5.0	357	25.7	147	10.6

Problems encountered in using Library are presented in table 6. Results found that there is a problem of lack of arrangement of books on shelves (27.9%), lack of assistance from library staff (19.6%), shortage of working hours of library (47.2%) and improper lighting and ventilation (33.9%).

CONCLUSIONS

It is of the general view that day by day there has been a decrease in the reading habits and use of library sources, especially with the advent of Internet technology and the impact of mass media. So, the librarians have to find the solution and try to imbibe marketing tools to attract users in a more optimistic manner rather than pessimistic way. Librarians should also develop strong ICT and modernize their library and assist users in learning the use of online sources like NLIST e-resources in addition to user sensitization programmes. Proper orientation and use social media gadgets, librarians should help users to improve their information seeking skills and conduct user sensitization at regular intervals and be more personalized in his or her approach for want of information.

REFERENCES

1. Arora, Jagdish & Trivedi, Kruti (2010). *UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium: Present Services and Future Endeavours*. *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology*, 30(2), 15-25.
2. Arua, Uche & Chinaka, George I. (2011). *Use of Library Resources by Staff and Students of Secondary Schools in Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State*. *Library Philosophy and Practice*.
3. Joginder Singh Burman, *Use of Library Resources by the Students of Library and Information Science, KUK, IMPACT: International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Literature (IMPACT: IJRHAL), Volume 1, Issue 5, September-October 2013, pp. 7-12*
4. Arya, Satish & Talukdar, Kallol Das (2010). *Use and Effectiveness of Internet Services and Resources in the Delhi College of Engineering Library: A Case Study*. *Library Hi Tech News*, 27(3), 12-19.
5. Bath University (1968). *Investigation into information requirements of social scientists (INFROSS): Report on the Preliminary stage, 1967, 1971 – INFROSS report No.2*.
6. V. Viswanathan et al., *Use of Library Electronic Resources among Selected Arts and Science Colleges in Tamil Nadu, International Journal of Library Science and Research (IJLSR), Volume 6, Issue 4, July-August 2016, pp. 17-22*
7. Marchionini, G. (1995). *Information seeking in electronic environments*. UK: Cambridge University Press.

8. Shinebourne, J (1980). *User needs, the new technology and traditional approaches to libraries services. Journal of Information Science*, 2, 135.
9. Wilson, T. D. (2000). *Human information behavior. Informing Sciences*, 3(2), 49-55.
10. Wilson, Petric (1968). *Two kinds of power, Berkeley: University of California Press*, p.235.
11. Parveen Kumar, *Use of Library Resources by the Students of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Rohtak, India, International Journal of Library Science and Research (IJLSR), Volume 3, Issue 1, March-April 2013, pp. 7-12*
12. Wilson, Bonita (2006). *Making Good Use of Digital Library Content and Services.D-Lib Magazine*, 12(1).
13. Yekanath Ningappa, K, Raghavendra, S. & Ramesh Gandhi, RTD (2010). *Use of Tech Focus Digital Library in Engineering Colleges: A Case Study of R.V. College of Engineering, Bangalore. SRELS Journal of Information Management*, 47(1).