

Information Use Pattern of Faculty Members of Arts and Science Colleges in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract - This article deals with the study about the Information Use Pattern of Faculty Members of Arts and Science Colleges in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu. The study covers methods adopted by Faculty for keeping abreast of current developments, amount spent in information gathering, utilization of library services, use of information channels and to assess the adequacy, availability and accessibility of the college library collection.

Keywords: Communication Behaviour, Faculty Members, Information Channels, Users satisfaction

I. INTRODUCTION

Information is a valuable resource required in any society; thus acquiring and using information are critical and important activities. It is considered as the first element in the search for wisdom in human chain process that arisen from documentation produces information, which converts into documentation and one again into information. The term information has been derived from two latin words "Forma" and "Farmatio" both these terms convey more or less the same meaning of giving shape to something and forming pattern. There are terms such as knowledge, facts, data, and news message and so on used as synonyms or near synonyms to information. Information means the communication of knowledge about an event of given condition or the spread of knowledge derived from observation study experience or instruction.

II. INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

Information Seeking Behaviour is mainly concerned with who needs what kind of Information and for what reasons; now information is found, evaluated and used, and how their needs can be identified and satisfied. The following process takes place in the information seeking behaviours; identifying objectives, defining need, accessing information system, establishing sources of information, information acquisition, use of information and satisfaction. The Present study attempts to understand, justify explains the library usage and consequently, to gain more knowledge by the faculty members of arts and Science Colleges.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the information needs of the faculty members of arts and science colleges;
2. To identify the major sources of bibliographic information;
3. To assess the utilization of library and its services;
4. To know how for the staff members are dependent library;
5. To Identify the various mode of access to information source;
6. To assess the use of information channels;
7. To assess the user satisfaction;
8. To assess the adequacy, availability and accessibility of the college library collection.

IV. HYPOTHESES

In order to study the above mentioned objectives, the following hypotheses are formulated.

There is a significant level of variation among the different categories of faculty members to use library.

1. The faculty members are satisfied of library services.
2. There is a significant difference among the various faculty members in the sources of bibliographic information ,
3. There is a considerable level of using internet by the faculty members.
4. The journal source is occupies a predominant place among the faculty members.

V. METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on primary data collected from the faculty members through a well designed questionnaire. Besides, secondary data have been collected from the sources of journals, reference books and conference proceedings.

VI. DATA COLLECTION

The data was collected by using empirical method of the questionnaire. At first, a pilot study was conducted to test the attitude of respondents to answering the questions. Then

the well tested questionnaire was distributed personally to the faculty members of the arts and science colleges located in Dindigul District. Then sufficient time was given to the respondents of furnish the information when collecting the filled questionnaire each respondent was requested to offer his comments and opinions are various concepts included in it. Their suggestions relating to the improvement the library services were also called for. In order to study the information seeking behaviour of faculty members of Arts and Science Colleges in Dindigul District have been chosen. There were 120 filled, questionnaire collected from the faculty members. This constitutes more that 60% response of the total faculty members of the three colleges.

VII. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The Present study covers the faculty members of G.T.N Arts College, M.V. Muthaiah Government Women's Arts College and Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science.

VIII. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETAION

The present study deals with the information seeking behaviour of the beneficiaries of the library system viz. Arts and Science College faculty members at three colleges. In this chapter an attempt is made to present the results of the analysis of the data collected in the faculty of Arts and Science Colleges in Dindigul District. A description of the characteristics of the respondents is followed by the frequency of library visit, channels of information, problems faced by the respondent and user satisfaction.

TABLE I COLLEGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS

<u>S.No.</u>	Name of the College	Total No. of Faculty	Total No. of Respondents	%	Cum %
1	G.T.N. Arts College	68	35	29.17	29.17
2	M.V.Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College	75	52	43.33	72.50
3	RamaPrabha College of Arts and Science	35	33	27.50	100
	Total	178	120	100	

Table I shows that there are 178 faculty members are working in three colleges and 120 faculty members were responded for this study. From the sample, 29.17% of respondents belong to G.T.N. Arts College, 43.3% of respondents belong to M.V.Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College and 27.5% respondents belong to RamaPrabha College of Arts and Science.

Table II indicates that 235 articles are published in the national journals by the respondents belong to GTN Arts college, 176 articles by M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's arts College, and 72 articles by Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science. The faculty members of GTN Arts college have published 19 books and five books by M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's arts College and two books by Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science.

TABLE II DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS FORMAL COMMUNICATION BEHAVIOUR

S.No.	Name of the College	No. of Research Articles Published		Books Published	Total
		National Journal	International Journal		
1	G.T.N. Arts College	235 (62.67)	121 (32.27)	19 (5.06)	375 (100)
2	M.V.Muthaiah Government Women's Arts College	176 (84.16)	27 (12.99)	5 (2.40)	208 (100)
3	Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science	72 (83.72)	12 (13.95)	2 (2.33)	86 (100)
	Total	483 (72.20)	160 (23.92)	26 (3.88)	669 (100)

TABLE III RESPONDENTS INFORMAL COMMUNICATION BEHAVIOU

S.No.	Name of the College	No. of Conference, Seminar Attended		Visited Foreign Countries	Total
		National Level	International Level		
1	G.T.N. Arts College	245 (60.34)	7 (58.33)	5 (61.54)	260 (60.33)
2	M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College	120 (29.56)	3 (25.00)	4 (30.76)	127 (29.47)
3	Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science	41 (10.10)	2 (16.67)	1 (7.70)	44 (10.20)
	Total	406 (100)	12 (100)	13 (100)	431 (100)

Table III shows that a total of 406 papers were presented in the national level conferences by the faculty of three colleges. In this 60% of the papers were presented by the faculty of G.T.N. Arts College, 29.5% of papers presented by the faculty of M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College and the remaining 41% of papers were presented by the faculty of Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science.

There were 13 faculty members are visited foreign countries in which 61.54%, 29.47%, 44% of faculty members belong to G.T.N. Arts College, M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College, Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science respectively.

TABLE IV PURPOSE OF VISITING TO LIBRARY BY THE RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Purpose of Visiting the Library	G.T.N. Arts College	M.V.M. Govt. Women's	RamaPrabha Arts and	Total
1	Preparing Lecture Notes	12 (34.28)	19 (36.54)	11 (33.33)	42 (35.0)
2	Preparing Questions for Periodical Test	1 (2.86)	1 (1.92)	1 (3.03)	3 (2.50)
3	Setting Assignment for Students	1 (2.86)	1 (1.92)	2 (6.06)	4 (3.33)
4	Enriching Knowledge in Subject Area	9 (25.92)	17 (32.70)	9 (27.28)	35 (29.17)
5	Explore new approaches to teach the subject	8 (22.86)	9 (17.31)	7 (21.21)	24s (20.0)
6	Prepare articles for publications, conference,	2 (95.71)	3 (5.77)	2 (6.06)	7 (5.83)
7	Research work	2 (5.71)	2 (3.84)	1 (3.03)	5 (4.17)
	Total	35 (100)	52 (100)	33 (100)	120 (100)

Table IV shows the purpose of visit by the respondents for accessing of information. 35% of respondents visit to the library for Preparing Lecture Notes, 2.5% for Preparing Questions for Periodical Test, 3% for Setting Assignment for Students, 29.17% for Enriching Knowledge in Subject Area, 20% for Explore new approaches to teach the subject, 5.83% for Prepare articles for publications, conference, seminar, and 4.17% of respondents visit to the library for research work.

Table V shows the faculty members are using World Wide Web for various purposes. In G.T.N. Arts college (22.86%) are using World Wide Web for research dissemination, 13 (37.14%) for down loading publication, 4 (11.43%) for personal and recreational purpose, 7 (13.47%) for finding bibliographic services and 6 (17.14%) for locating research by the faculty members. In M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College, 15 (28.85%) faculty members are using for the purpose of down loading publication, 7(13.47%) for

finding bibliographic services, 16(30.77%) for research dissemination. From the Rama Prabha college of Arts and Science 10(30.30%) faculty members are using for downloading publication, 6(18.18%) for research dissemination, 8(24.25%) for findings bibliographic information.

Table VI indicates that the G.T.N. Arts college faculty members have satisfied cent present with circulation service, photo copying service (82.85%), Reference service (71.43%), CD based service (68.57%). Regarding to other services of

library are inter library loan, CAS service. The respondents from M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College says that they have satisfied circulation service, with 96.42%, Reference service with 94.23%, CAS service with 4.38% and Internet service with 32.9%. In Rama Prabha college of Arts and Science Faculty Members are satisfied circulation service and Reference service with cent percentage. The remaining service are like photo copying service (90.90%), CD based service (87.87%), CAS service (51.51%), Inter library loan service (45.45%) and Internet service (36.36%).

TABLE V PURPOSE OF USING WORLD WIDE WEB BY THE RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Purpose	G.T.N. Arts College	M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts	Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science	Total
1	Locating research	4 (11.43)	5 (9.61)	4 (12.12)	13 (10.83)
2	Down loading publication	13 (37.14)	15 (28.85)	10 (30.30)	38 (31.67)
3	Research dissemination	8 (22.86)	16 (30.77)	6 (18.18)	30 (25.00)
4	Finding bibliography service	6 (17.14)	7 (13.47)	8 (24.25)	21 (17.40)
5	Personal recreational interest	4 (11.43)	9 (17.30)	5 (15.15)	18 (15.00)
	Total	35 (100)	52 (100)	33 (100)	120 (100)

TABLE VI USER SATISFACTION OF THE LIBRARY SERVICES

S.No.	Services	G.T.N. Arts College			M.V.M. Women's Arts College			Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
1	Circulation	35(100)	-	35(100)	40(96.92)	12(23.08)	52(100)	33(100)	-	33(100)
2	Reference	25(71.43)	10(28.57)	35(100)	49(94.23)	3(5.77)	52(100)	33(100)	-	33(100)
3	Inter library	10(82.85)	25(71.43)	35(100)	-	52(100)	52(100)	15(45.45)	18(54.53)	33(100)
4	Photo copying	29(82.85)	6(17.15)	35(100)	-	52(100)	52(100)	30(90.90)	3(9.10)	33(100)
5	CAS services	10(28.57)	25(77.43)	35(100)	21(40.33)	31(39.62)	52(100)	17(51.51)	16(48.49)	33(100)
6	Internet	14(40.00)	21(60.00)	35(100)	17(32.69)	35(67.31)	52(100)	12(36.36)	21(63.64)	33(100)
7	CD based	24(68.57)	11(31.43)	35(100)	-	52(100)	52(100)	29(87.87)	4(12.13)	33(100)
	Total	165(59.28)	114(40.72)	280(100)	184(69.70)	80(30.30)	264(100)	169(73.17)	62(16.83)	231(100)

TABLE VII PURPOSE OF USING E-MAIL BY THE RESPONDENTS

Sl. No.	Purpose	G.T.N. Arts College	M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College	Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science	Total
1	Academic administration	6(17.14)	10(19.23)	5(15.15)	21(17.51)
2	Attracting editing/working papers	5(14.28)	6(4.54)	8(24.25)	19(15.83)
3	Personal/social correspondence	9(25.72)	9(17.31)	7(21.21)	25(20.83)
4	Research correspondence	15(42.86)	27(51.92)	13(39.39)	55(45.83)
	Total	35(100)	52(100)	33(100)	120(100)

The G.T.N Arts college, 15 faculty members (42.86%) are using e-mail for research correspondence, 6 (17.14%) for academic administration, 9 (25.72%) for personal, social correspondence. In M.V. Muthaiah Govt. Women's Arts College, 27(51.92%) respondents use internet for research correspondence, 10(19.23%) for academic administration work and 9(17.31%) for personal and social correspondence. Rama Prabha College of Arts and Science faculty members are using e-mail for research correspondence (39.39%), and 7 for academic administration (21.21%).

IX. CONCLUSION

The respondents in this study area have varied levels of knowledge on information services. The study also quantified the respondent's time allocation to visit library. Majority of the respondents have utilized the library only to read text books. The research helped to find out the association between different levels of respondents and opinion about the reference services. Based on the use pattern of the college libraries, care has been taken to attract the users to visit library more frequently and spend their valuable time in the library to exploit the college library information resources, facilities and services to meet their user's needs.

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