

Library Users' Opinion on Book Circulation Systems in Engineering Colleges in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu: A Study

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Abstract - The study examines the library users' opinion on book circulation systems in engineering colleges in Coimbatore City, Tamil Nadu. A structured questionnaire was distributed to 800 users in engineering colleges in Coimbatore City. The users have given their opinion on book reservation facilities, books borrowing facilities, display of new arrivals, availability of journals / magazines, supporting of library staffs etc. Majority of the respondents have utilized the library only to read text books.

Keywords: Book Circulation Systems, Engineering Colleges, Utilization of Resources

I. INTRODUCTION

Engineering college libraries are most repositories of knowledge and form an integral part of education scenario. The concept of a library as a repository of information is undergoing a profound change. Information is an important ingredient for students, faculty and researchers. It has its value only when it is used in time. The researchers are in search of pin-pointed, up-to-date and exhaustive information at their desktop for their research [1]. The engineering colleges being the centers of higher education and research impart advanced knowledge to provide necessary facilities to develop new knowledge. They are natural home of research and contribute significantly to research and serve as training ground for researchers. Due to information explosion and the influence of information technology, the approaches to libraries vary among the library users [2]. It is quite obvious that the librarians must use management tools to run academic engineering college libraries.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. The objectives of the study are to analyze how students use their library resources in engineering college;
2. Utilization of library services among the students of engineering college Institutions in Coimbatore district;
3. To find out the users perception on quality of various types of services provided to users;

4. To identify methods of effective services;
5. To determine the types of information sources and services required among the users.

III. METHODOLOGY

In order to accomplish the objectives, a well structured questionnaire instrument was designed and distributed to respondents for getting correct responses. It consisted of open and close ended questions on demographic characteristics, library use, information need, and sources of information. A structured questionnaire was distributed to 800 users in engineering colleges in Coimbatore City, Tamil Nadu. All responses were evaluated, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in the following paragraph.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE I USER'S OPINION ON PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES

Level of Opinion	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Sufficient	630	78.75
Very Sufficient	110	13.75
Insufficient	60	7.50
Total	800	100

Table I shows that 27.3 % of the respondents use reprographic service available at the library. 35% of the respondents use reprographic service often, 20% of the respondents rarely using the facility and 17.5% users never used the reprographic facility available at the library.

TABLE II RESPONDENT'S OPINION ON BORROWING OF BOOKS

Level of Opinion	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Always	320	40.0
Often	100	12.5
Rarely	340	42.5
Never	40	5.0
Total	800	100

From the table II, 630 (78.75%) of the respondents feel that the lending period for home reading was sufficient, where 110(13.75%) of the respondents feel that it is very sufficient and 60 (7.5%) of respondents feel it was insufficient.

TABLE III USERS OPINION ON BOOKS RESERVATION FACILITIE

Level of Opinion	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Always	320	40.0
Often	100	12.5
Rarely	340	42.5
Never	40	5.0
Total	800	100

Table III indicates that 42.5 % of the respondents rarely used the reservation facility, 40% use always, 5% of the users never use reservation facility.

TABLE IV SATISFACTION LEVEL OF AVAILABILITY OF JOURNALS / MAGAZINES

Level of Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Satisfied	450	56.25
Highly Satisfied	260	32.50
Not Satisfied	090	11.25
Total	800	100

Table IV shows that 56.25% of the respondents satisfied with available of journals and magazines . 32.5%, 11.25% of the respondents have given their opinion that the available journals and magazines are satisfied and not satisfied respectively.

TABLE V USERS OPINION ON UTILIZATION OF PERIODICALS

S.No.	Periodicals	High	Very High	Poor	Very Poor	Total No. of Respondents
1	National	440	160	120	80	800
2	International	460	160	20	160	800

Out of 800 respondents, 440 of them are highly referring the national journals whereas 80 respondents are not using the national journals. In regard to international journals, 460 respondents are highly referring the journals, whereas 160 respondents are not referring the international journals.

TABLE VI USER'S SATISFACTION LEVEL ON DISPLAY OF NEW ARRIVALS

Level of Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Satisfied	440	52.5
High satisfied	220	20.0
Not satisfied	140	27.5
Total	800	100

The table VI explains the classifications of respondent's on the basis of their satisfaction level on display of new arrivals, It is observed from the above table that 440(52.5%) of the respondents are satisfied, where 220(20%) of the respondents are highly satisfied and 140(27.5%) of the respondents are not satisfied with this.

TABLE VII RESPONDENTS SATISFIED ABOUT REMINDER SERVICES

Level of Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Satisfied	420	52.5
High satisfied	160	20.0
Not satisfied	220	27.5
Total	800	100

From the table VII shows the usage opinion on reminder services in the library by the respondents. 420(52.5%) of the respondents were satisfied with the reminder services of books, whereas 160(20%) of the respondents are highly satisfied with this system 220(27.5%) of the respondents are not satisfied with the reminder services in the library.

TABLE VIII RESPONDENT'S USAGE OPINION ON IDENTITY CARD

Level of Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Multipurpose Usage	660	82.50
Identification Purpose	090	11.25
For Library Use only	050	06.25
Total	800	100

Regarding the respondents usage opinion on identity card, the data in the table VIII shows that 660 (82.50%) of the respondents are using almost for all purpose like industrial visit, other colleges and universities, seminar, conference, event, tournaments, etc. 90 (11.25%) of the respondents are using only for identification purpose and 50 (6.25%) of the respondents are using for Library use only.

TABLE IX USERS' LEVEL OF SATISFACTION ON ISSUES OF REFERENCE BOOKS

Level of Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Multipurpose Usage	660	82.50
Identification Purpose	090	11.25
For Library Use only	050	06.25
Total	800	100

Level of satisfaction about the reference book issues in the library is seen in the above table. Most (60%) of the respondents are Unsatisfied with the service, 210 (26.25%) of the respondents are satisfied and 110 (13.75%) of the respondents are very satisfied on issues of reference books.

TABLE X DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENT ON RESOURCES REGULARLY USED

S.No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Books	88	11
2	Journals	120	15
3	Theses/Dissertation	125	15.6
4	Project reports	29	3.6
5	Back volumes	50	6.2
6	Question bank	120	15
7	Audio Visuals	80	10
8	E- Books	44	5.5
9	E-Journals	94	11.7
10	others	50	6.2
	Total	800	100

It is seen from the table X that 15.6% of the respondents refer theses and dissertation, 11.7% use e-journals, 15% use journals, 11% use books. The project reports are used by 3.6% of the respondents only.

CONCLUSION

The study on Library Users' Opinion on Book Circulation Systems in Engineering Colleges in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu is very helpful in documenting Information Literacy and Library Information Services. 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 engineering 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 engineering college library information resources, facilities and services to meet their user's needs.

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