

Access Pattern of Scholarly Information at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University: A Case Study

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Abstract - This paper described that users visit the Tamilnadu Agricultural University library for collecting information from students and faculty members. The researchers have attempted to find out the perceptions and outlook of the university library users with highly response to utilize the facility is available. The study shows that the quality of collection with respect to books, Journals and e-resources. Google is most popular search engine among the user for browsing the net. Reference Service is the most prefer by the staff and students.

Keywords: Tamilnadu Agriculture University, Information Resources, User Studies, E-Resources, services

I. INTRODUCTION

Library is essentially a service is primary objective of the library is render satisfactory and timely services to the user community now days is more emphasis on the users. That means the focus today is not on the mere system, but on its response to the needs of the users. The libraries have changed the out model concept of preserving a large number of reading materials for the sake of preservation only in this context, it is noteworthy to quote Gurudeva Tagore's remarks "The extent of use to which the reading materials of a library is put, should determine its importance rather than the staggering number of volumes", Libraries are constantly expanding their resources and developing new programmes and procedures to meet the various information requirements of the users. So the library must therefore be alert to change from time to time. Information explosion, increased publication, demands for new and better library services and shortage of funds have forced the librarians and information scientists to look with critical eyes at their own library organization and activities. Technological and social changes have presented new problems for the library and have opened new fields of service. These changes call for new techniques and for critical re-examination of old ones. One of the most important and effective means of accomplishing this task is the employment of the library survey. Any library irrespective of its kind has to be user oriented. All the services provided by the library are intended for the benefit of the users.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The university Library most uses students and faculty members using for books, journals and magazine use for

research purposes. Most of the students and staff used printed materials than electronics materials and in web based information services. OPAC and ugc-infonet digital library consortium resources by students and faculty members of Agriculture University in all departments. The main aim is to determine the needs of students and faculty members of Agriculture University in the discipline of varies activities and to find out how far their information needs are fulfilled by the information resources available through ugc-infonet digital library consortium. The paper attempts to define this consortium, its objectives, scope, e-resources subscribed and the government initiative to provide current information in various disciplines for research and teaching excellence.

Thanuskodi (2011)¹ has showed a questionnaire-based survey on use of OPAC was conducted for Annamalai University Library on various categories of users such as faculty members, research scholars and postgraduate students, covering different disciplines such as Arts, Science, Engineering, Medicine and Agriculture sciences. The paper discusses various aspects of OPAC such as frequency of use, purpose, satisfaction level, etc. The results of the study show that only one third of the respondents used OPAC frequently. The study also found that majority of users consulted OPAC to know the availability and location of the requisite documents. The study shows that 95 % of 60 respondents expressed lack of knowledge, 70 % expressed confusing to use, 51.66% expressed no output, 45 % expressed lack of assistance from library staff, 36.66 % expressed slow speed and around one fourth expressed lack of computer systems.

Bakkiaraj, J: Sathiyamurthy, M.G. and Esmail, S.M (2012)² "conducted a study on the use of E-Resources by the Researchers of Agricultural Faculty, Annamalai University. That study presents the Use of E-Resources by Researchers of Agricultural Faculty, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, and India. A questionnaire consists of 23 questions and designed to elicit the opinion of research scholars of agricultural faculty, Annamalai University. There are 13 departments in agriculture faculty, Annamalai University. But the questionnaires were distributed only ten departments of agricultural faculty, Annamalai University. Among the total number of 132 research scholars, 124

questionnaires were responded. From the study, it is revealed that majority of the research scholar in the faculty of agriculture have been used e-resources for their research work”.

Ogba (2013)³ investigates the information seeking behaviour of final year law students in Nigeria. A structured questionnaire and interview methods were used for data gathering in 7 Nigerian Universities. The data was analyzed using frequency distribution, measure of central tendency and dispersion; and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel as software. The interview was transcribed and arranged into themes for proper analysis. The research findings show that the respondents use print textbooks and Google as major research resources, Academic Law Libraries and Search engines as major research locations while newspaper vendors and public libraries are used as locations for research on newspapers. They were found to possess computer skills 21 and lack information skills. Money, MTN (a major telecommunication provider in Nigeria), Library and Information Services (LIS), Law faculty dress code and Nigerian respect views for elders were found as factors to information seeking behaviour of the respondents. This study was concluded by presenting new findings to information seeking behaviour (ISB) amongst Nigerian law students

Palaniappan (2014)⁴ on his Ph.D thesis “A study on scholarly information resources access pattern among the post graduate students in Alagappa university, Karaikudi” has been found that majority of the postgraduate students are aware of internet and e-resources, service facility and very limited students were not aware of internet and e-resources facilities. Majority of the respondents have taken help from their friend for learning to internet followed by library and informational professionals. Majority of the students were using the electronic information than print version. It has been identified that reference service, E-mail/Internet service has secure first and second rank respectively and information display, Information Search Service and CD-ROM Search service has secured the least score has got the last rank. From the study, it has been identified that books and reference books has got the highest score ranked first and second respectively, whereas journals and CD-ROMs has got lowest score and has got the last rank.

C. Baskaran (2015)⁵ reports the results user much more interest on using internet for accessing scientific information in which global level publications. This study reveals that faculty of science respondents secured maximum level due to keen search and obtained information by scientific journals and electronic publications. The maximum number of users are visited the library for preparing seminars, conferences and assignments. The Internet users are preferring yahoo search engine and Google is next position in this study. Latest enhancing Information and Communications technology for

the Library services in 21st century the readers can be use the resources at anywhere. Researchers must access more electronic journals and databases provide by UGC- Infonet. Teaching faculty and research schools can be accessed electronic resources through campus wide network facility provide in the University.

Subbulakshmi and Manivannan (2016)⁶ analyzed the availability of college websites, library websites, and availability of online resources in library sites. The study is confined to link college library websites and e-resources of Arts and Science College libraries in Tamilnadu. This study is limited to 297 colleges from 32 districts, which has been taken by the investigator for this study. The analysis of 260 colleges revealed 174 colleges are holding library webpage and rest 86 colleges does not hold webpage for their library. The researcher observed that there is a significant difference exist between the provision of college websites and library websites among Government and self-financing colleges, the awareness library facilities by self-financing college students are better than Government college students, this could be due to lack of promotional activity, which needs to be concentrated.

Anasuya, V (2017)⁷ conducted a study on electronic resources are becoming an integral part of the modern life and of the educational prospect, especially the higher education prospect. Students of all age group, house wife’s, technician and professionals of all community like academicians, business, medical professionals, lawyers, technicians are highly dependent on e-resources. A total number of 300 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members and students of medical, dental and paramedical science professionals. This constitutes 76.66% (230/300) of the total response. This study showed that the uses of e-resources are very common among the professionals of medical, dental and paramedical college/university libraries of Karnataka State. It also showed that majority of medical and dental professionals followed by medical technology”

III. TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Agricultural university central library has rich collection of Volumes, subscribing huge number of national and international journals. Further good collection of thesis dissertation, technical reports & Proceedings of conferences etc are also available in the central library. The sample e-journals and e-books access through UGC-Infonet consortia for development in research activities by the students and faculties. The researcher has found various methods of services are functioning in the university library.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To find the profile of the Agriculture university library users
2. To observe the users access pattern and their attributes

in the library

3. To determine the types of some information sources and services require among the users.
4. To assess the amount of familiarity and frequency in the use of the different types of electronic resources and services.
5. To know the difficulties encountered by the respondents while using internet.
6. To know the level of satisfaction on library services.

V. METHODOLOGY

A structured questionnaire was distributed to the 250 respondents of users in Agriculture University Library and received 230 questionnaires from students and faculty members of university. All the Valued responses were tabulated analyzed and interpreted in the following paragraph.

VI. ANALYSIS OF DATA

This analysis is based on the data collection through questionnaire from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University library students and Faculty members.

TABLE I GENDER-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
01	Male	125	54.35
02	Female	105	45.65
Total		230	100

Sources: Primary Data

Different categories of gender among the respondents were covered under the study. Among the 125(54.35%) respondents was Male, 105(45.65%) respondents Female. It was found from the current investigation that male respondents were higher than female respondents. Through more male respondents use library resources female respondents also access the same. This shows the interest among both men and women in using library resources.

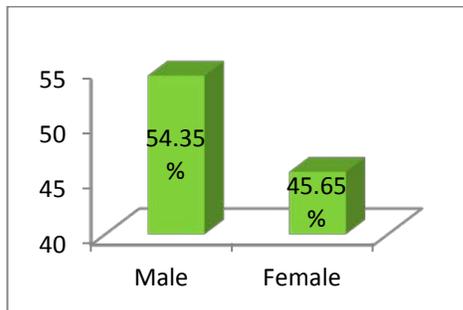


Fig. 1 Gender-wise distribution

Different categories users have surveyed in this study are shown in Table 2. Among the 165(71.74%) respondents was Students, 65(28.26%) respondents Faculty Members. It was found from the current investigation that Students respondents largest. Through more Students respondents use library resources Faculty Members respondents also access

the same. This shows the interest among both Students and Faculty Members in using resources.

TABLE II STATUSES OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Students	165	71.74
02	Faculty Members	65	28.26
Total		230	100

Sources: Primary Data

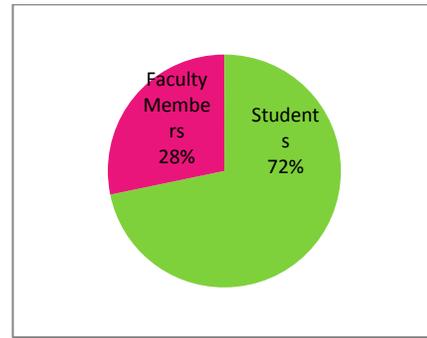


Fig. 2 Statuses of distribution

TABLE III AGE WISE RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Below 20	61	26.53
02	21-25	72	31.30
03	26-30	36	15.65
04	31-35	32	13.92
05	36 and Above	29	12.60
Total		230	100

Sources: Primary Data

Table III was evidenced from the current study 61 (26.53%) that respondents belong to the age of below 20 years followed by 72 (31.30%) respondents belong to the age of 21-25 years than followed by 36(15.65%) respondents belonged to the category of up to 26-30. Further, it was also found that 32(13.92%) respondents belonged to the category of up to 31-35 and the remaining 29(12.60%) respondents belonged to the category of 36 Years above. A majority of the respondents covered in the present survey belonged to the age category of 21-25 Years. Young People are adaptive in nature. They use more Journals, Magazines, e-resources for their Information needs.

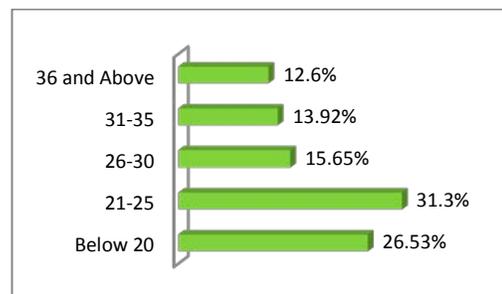


Fig. 3 Age Wise distribution

TABLE IV FREQUENCY OF LIBRARY VISIT

S. No.	Usage of E-Resources	No. of respondents	Percentage
01	Daily	86	37.39
02	Twice a Week	63	27.39
03	Once a week	43	18.69
04	Once in a Month	38	16.53
Total		230	100

Sources: Primary Data

Table IV describes the Frequency of users visit the University library for as among the 230 respondents, of which 86(37.39%) respondents are library collection used for daily. In this study, 63(27.39%) respondents are using

twice a week, 43(18.69%) respondents use weekly once, and 38(16.53%) respondents use the library Resources once in a month. Hence the majority of the respondents used the library Resources for daily.

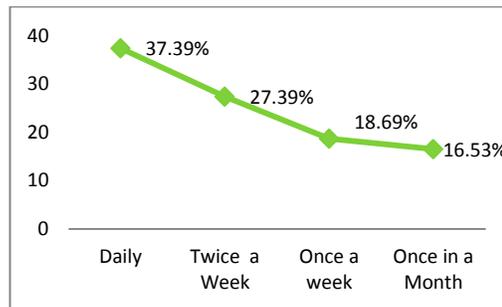


Fig. 4 Frequency of Library visit distribution

TABLE V PURPOSE OF VISIT TO THE LIBRARY

S. No.	Purpose of visit	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	To Prepare for lectures	45	19.56
02	To prepare Projects/Seminars/assignment	76	33.04
03	To prepare for moot court	25	10.87
04	To refer journal articles	39	16.96
05	To browse database	35	15.21
Total		230	100

Sources: Primary Data

Table V describes the Frequency of various Purpose of visit to the University library for To Prepare for lectures, seminars, lectures to use database and to refer journals for as among the 230 respondents, of which 45(19.56%) respondents are to be Prepare for lectures. In this study, 76(33.04%) respondents are to be to prepare

Projects/Seminars/assignment, 25(10.87%) respondents are to be to prepare for moot court, 38(16.53%) respondents are to be referring journal articles, and remaining 35(15.21%) respondents are to be browse database use the library. Hence the majority of the respondents used the library to prepare Projects/Seminars/assignment.

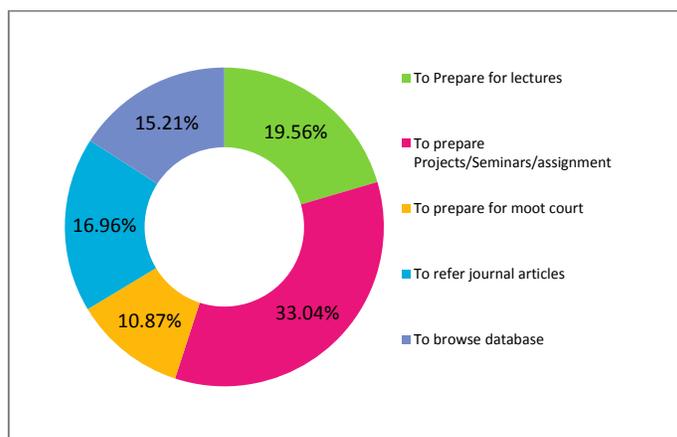


Fig. 5 Purpose of visit to the library distribution

TABLE VI SERVICES QUALITY

S. No.	Types of Library services	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Book lending Service	80	34.78
02	Reference Service	120	52.17
03	Inter library loan service	30	13.05
Total		230	100

Sources: Primary Data

Table VI describes the Frequency of the University library Services Quality for various services among the 230 respondents, of which 80(34.78%) respondents are Book lending Service, than followed by 120(52.17%) respondents are Reference Service and the remaining 30(13.05%) respondents Inter library loan service. Hence the majority of the respondents Services Quality for the university library in Reference Service.

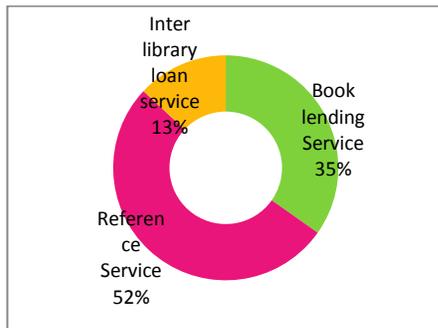


Fig. 6 Services Quality

TABLE VII USE OF SEARCH ENGINES

S. No.	Search Engines	No. of Respondents (Mean Score)	Respondents Percentage
1	Google	72	31.30
2	Yahoo	45	19.56
3	Alta vista	34	14.78
4	Hotbot	22	9.57
5	Lycos	20	8.70
6	Northern light	15	6.52
7	Ask Jeeves	12	5.22
8	Sify	10	4.35
	Total	230	100

Sources: Primary Data

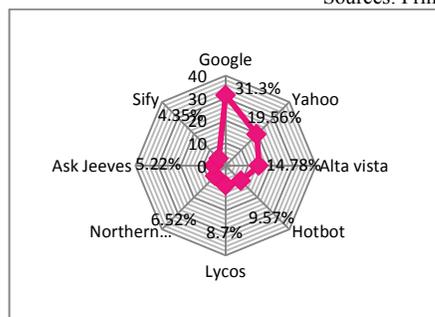


Fig. 7 Use of Search Engines

Table VII describes the Frequency of the University library using search engines for the 230 respondents, of which 72(31.30%) respondents Google, than followed by 45(19.56%) respondents use search engine Yahoo, next respondents Alta Vita 34(14.78%), next respondents Hotbot 22(9.57), next respondents Lycos 20(8.70), next respondents Northern Light search engines, next respondents using search engines for Ask Jeeves 12(5.22),and the remaining 10(4.35%) respondent using

search engines Sify. Hence the majority of the respondents using search engines for Google in the University library.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study discussed user much more interest on using internet for accessing scientific information in which global level publications. This study reveals that faculty of science respondents secured maximum level due to keen search and obtained information by scientific journals and electronic publications. The maximum number of users are visited the library for preparing seminars, conferences and assignments. The Internet users prefer Google search engine and is next yahoo position in this study. Latest enhancing Information and Communications technology for the Library services in 21st century the readers can be use the resources at anywhere. Researchers must access more electronic journals and databases provide by UGC- Infonet. Teaching faculty and research schools can be accessed electronic resources through campus wide network facility provide in the University.

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