

Information Use Pattern of Library by Faculty Members of Annapoorana Engineering College, Salem, Tamil Nadu: A Study

V. Chithra¹ and V. Geetha²

¹Research Scholar & Librarian, Sona College of Arts and Science, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India

²Associate Professor (Rtd), PG & RDLIS, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India

E-Mail: chithranachi@gmail.com

Abstract - Modern libraries are increasingly being redefined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources. They are extending services beyond the physical walls of a building, by providing material accessible by electronic means, and by providing the assistance of librarians in navigating and analyzing very large amounts of information with a variety of digital resources. Libraries are increasingly becoming community hubs where programs are delivered and people engage in lifelong learning. The aim of this study was to investigate the information use pattern of library by faculty members of Annapoorana Engineering College at Salem. Specifically, five purposes and research questions guided the study. It adopted a descriptive survey design and had a population of 80. From the above population questionnaire were distributed with all (80) and 75 questionnaires were returned; representing a return rate of 94%. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency tables and percentage method and to arrive at conclusion.

Keywords: Use Pattern, Library Service, Library Database, Searching Mechanism, Satisfaction Level

I. INTRODUCTION

The main mission of libraries attached to the institutions of higher learning is to provide information services to academic community which includes faculty and researchers to meet their academic and research requirements. The planning and designing of a library requires a systematic study of the needs and requirements of users. Libraries have been collecting traditionally various kinds of sources and holding them ready for use by the users. Due to an exponential growth of knowledge, there have been complexities in the information generation, handling and use. The impact of ICT (Information and communication technology), web technology and database technology have compelled the libraries to use these technologies effectively to provide services to the users. With the growing number of e-sources, it has become essential for the law library and information professionals to play the critical and exhibit the professional skills and techniques. In order to maximize the impact of law library services and the maximum use of their resources and services, it is essential on the part of Library and Information professionals to know about the users and their needs the user may seek information in a number of ways such as reading books, browsing periodicals, consulting, abstracting and indexing periodicals etc.

In order to improve the existing system of library and its services, the library administrators should modify or develop the libraries in accordance with the users' needs and interest. This is by undertaking the user studies and collecting opinion of the users in the form of feedback. The user feedbacks provide platform for the assessment of the quality of library and quality of the services and their extent of utility. Hence, as the user plays a pivotal role in the improvement of the library system, it is necessary to know the user psychological behaviors such as their information needs, the way of gathering information, the extent of use of library resources, the problems facing while using existing resources and their expectations from the system. Thus, the concept of user studies developed and over the period of time it is inevitable to conduct the user studies periodically to improve and develop the library as a system. This study is an investigation on the use pattern of library by the faculty of Annapoorana Engineering College at Salem.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dhyani (1974) conducted a survey of 100 readers at Rajasthan University library, Jaipur. The study revealed that generally the readers showed interest in using the library at the college level. However, only a few made use of the library at the university level. The users who were surveyed did not clearly reveal that there was general ignorance about the subject approach of the catalogueue. The survey recommended that library instruction should be imparted to the students, reference services by competent staff should be given, every member should be given a library handbook, library service should be properly organized, and documentation list including current awareness list should be circulated.

Lohar and Kumar (2002) evaluated the use of Sahyadri college libraries in Shimoga, Karnataka through a survey from 91 teachers using questionnaire. The analysis of the collected data covers the use of library resources, classification and catalogueue, library services and physical facilities. The study concluded that the chief intention for the use of libraries has been academic interest of the users.

Doraswamy (2010) opined that topmost on the patterns of information use by students is the mode of search upon which they use information. In this regard, Daraswamy stated that undergraduate students have mode upon which

they use information at their disposal. By this, the author may mean that the mode of information searching adopted by students depend on their individual likeness and preference. For instance, the author emphasized that students, depending on the variety of access mode made available by their university libraries, adopts a number of searching mode patterns such as manual searching (querying of databases), online searching (surfing of the World Wide Web) and querying of the librarians. This means that mode of information use or ways of obtaining information is another formidable pattern upon which undergraduate students use information to satisfy their needs.

Kumar and Kumbar (2013) pointed out that among the arrays of measures toward an improved information use pattern among undergraduate students of autonomous engineering colleges in Karnataka; the following measures are outstanding: Information materials and sources to be provided in different types, formats and structures; students should possess sound personality traits worthy of coping with their information needs; libraries to have defined, users-tailored and formidable volume of information; student to possess sound and creative knowledge for the synthesis of information at their disposal; and libraries to set viable access status on their collections

III. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study will restrict itself to the investigation of the pattern of information use by faculty members of Annapoorana Engineering College at Salem encompassing nature and types of information used; motivating factor to collect information, required sources of material, extent of using library service, frequently used database, searching mechanism adopted and the strategies for improving the patterns of information use and suggestions to improve the use patterns of library resources to the effective manner.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has been designed with a view to achieve the following objectives.

1. To assess the information needs and information use pattern of faculty of Annapoorana Engineering College in Salem.

2. To study the information gathering methods and procedures followed.
3. To study the different access of Engineering and Technology information sources.
4. To identify the types of information sources required.
5. To evaluate the adequacy and accessibility of the library collection and services.
6. To invite suggestions for the improvement of library services.

V. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on descriptive design. The study covers both primary and secondary data. The primary data has been collected by survey method using the questionnaire and secondary data has been collected from various sources like books, journals and so on. For the purpose of the study, the data has been collected from faculties of Annapoorana Engineering College in Salem.

A. Population of the Study: The study area covers with 80 faculties working in various departments. A total of 80 questionnaires have been distributed to the faculty members and 75 have responded. Hence, the total response for the study is 94%.

B. Sample Selection: The sample size is 75 respondents.

C. Methods of Data Collection: A methodology used for collecting data was questionnaire based. All the questions were specifically prepared with three point scale. These questionnaires were distributed in the study area and were successfully retrieved from faculties. Since the population size is small (80) the questionnaire is distributed to all the respondents, but 75 faculties were responded.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The Collected data from the respondents have been tabulated and analyzed using simple percentage. The findings of this study are applicable to the faculty members of Annapoorana Engineering College at Salem and it does not represent faculty of other institutions. Studying of all institutions is not possible at the level of an individual researcher due to constraints imposed by money, time, energy and efforts.

TABLE I BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Particulars		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Gender	Male	45	60
		Female	30	40
		Total	75	100
2.	Age	Below 30 years	19	25
		30 to 40 years	26	35
		41-50 years	14	19
		Above 50 years	16	21
		Total	75	100

S. No.	Particulars		No. of Respondents	Percentage
3.	Marital status	Married	46	61
		Unmarried	29	39
		Total	75	100
4.	Department	Mechanical (MECH)	19	25
		Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)	18	24
		Electrical and Electronics engineering(EEE)	21	28
		Computer Science (CS)	17	23
		Total	75	100
5.	Faculties	Professor	24	32
		Assistant professor	29	39
		Associate professor	22	29
		Total	75	100

Table I shows the personal background of the 75 respondents working in Annapoorana Engineering College at Salem. Among 75 respondents 60% of them are male and 40% of them are female. Regarding age category most of them are in the age group of 30-40 years (35%) followed by below 30 years (25%).

While viewing marital status 61% of them are married and 39% of them are unmarried. In pertaining to the department wise distribution 28% are from EEE, 25% are from MECH, 24% are from ECE department and 23% are from CS department. Whereas comprising the faculty cadre 32% of them are Professors, 39% are Assistant Professors and 29% of them are Associate Professors.

TABLE II FREQUENCY OF USING LIBRARY RESOURCES

Frequency of usage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	9	12
Weekly twice	21	28
Weekly once	28	38
Monthly	13	17
Rarely	4	5
Total	75	100

Table II denotes the frequency of using library resources. Among the 75 respondents most of them are using it for weekly once (38%).

TABLE III NATURE AND TYPE OF INFORMATION REQUIRED

S. No.	Type of information	Frequently required	Moderately required	Rarely required	Total
1.	Review of literature	22(29%)	17(23%)	36(48%)	75(100%)
2.	Experimental design, results and application	39(52%)	10(13%)	26(35%)	75(100%)
3.	Information about current development	41(55%)	14(19%)	20(26%)	75(100%)
4.	Statistical data	12(16%)	26(35%)	37(49%)	75(100%)
5.	Information about lab procedures	31(41%)	18(24%)	26(35%)	75(100%)

Table III denotes the nature and type of information required by the respondents. It is noted that review of literature is rarely required (48%), Experimental design, results and application information is frequently required

(52%), information about current development is frequently required (55%), statistical data is rarely required by 49% and information about lab procedures is also frequently required (41%).

TABLE IV MOTIVATING FACTOR TO SEEK AND COLLECT INFORMATION

S. No.	Motivating factor	Strong motivator	Average motivator	Weakest motivator	Total
1.	To prepare for class	50(67%)	22(29%)	3(4%)	75(100%)
2.	To guide students research work	46(62%)	25(33%)	4(5%)	75(100%)
3.	To broaden the area of knowledge in depth	39(52%)	23(31%)	13(17%)	75(100%)
4.	For self-fulfillment and self-satisfaction	21(28%)	34(45%)	20(27%)	75(100%)
5.	To set question papers	25(33%)	21(28%)	29(39%)	75(100%)

Table IV explains the motivating factor to seek and collect information. Among 75 sample respondents 67% of the faculties strong motivator is to prepare for class notes, 62% of them seek information to guide student research work,

52% of them collect information to broaden the area of knowledge in depth, 45% of them are averagely motivated for self-fulfillment and self-satisfaction and 33% of them strongly motivated to set question papers.

TABLE V REQUIRED SOURCE OF MATERIAL

S. No.	Required source	Frequently required	Moderately required	Rarely required	Total
1.	Books	45(60%)	26(35%)	4(5%)	75(100%)
2.	Thesis and dissertation	20(27%)	25(33%)	30(40%)	75(100%)
3.	Audio-video recording	36(48%)	24(32%)	15(20%)	75(100%)
4.	Periodicals/Journals	40(53%)	15(20%)	20(27%)	75(100%)

Table V denotes the required source of material. 60% of them use books frequently, thesis and dissertation are required by 27%, Audio and video recording are required

frequently (48%), periodicals/ Journals are frequently required by 53%.

TABLE VI EXTENT OF USING LIBRARY SERVICES

S. No.	Library services	Marginally	Substantially	Completely	Total
1.	Circulation service	12(16%)	14(19%)	49(65%)	75(100%)
2.	Reference service	24(32%)	19(25%)	32(43%)	75(100%)
3.	Abstracting & indexing service	41(55%)	18(24%)	16(21%)	75(100%)
4.	Reprographic (Xerox) service	18(24%)	26(35%)	31(41%)	75(100%)
5.	Current awareness service(CAS)	26(35%)	35(47%)	14(18%)	75(100%)
6.	Selective dissemination of information service (SDI)	16(21%)	25(34%)	34(45%)	75(100%)
7.	Bibliographical service	17(23%)	15(20%)	43(57%)	75(100%)
8.	Internet service	26(35%)	21(28%)	28(37%)	75(100%)

Table VI denotes the extent of usage of library service in Annapoorana Engineering College at Salem. Most of the respondents use circulation service (65%), Reference

service (43%), and Reprographic service (41%), Selective dissemination of information service (45%), Bibliographical service (57%) and internet service (37%).

TABLE VII FREQUENCY OF DATABASE USAGE

S. No.	Database	Frequently used	Moderately used	Rarely used	Total
1.	IEEE	32(43%)	28(37%)	15(20%)	75(100%)
2.	J-GATE	51(68%)	18(24%)	6(8%)	75(100%)
3.	DELNET	49(65%)	16 (21%)	10(14%)	75(100%)
4.	ACM-Digital library	31(41%)	25(33%)	19(25%)	75(100%)
5.	Springer link	26(35%)	29(39%)	20(26%)	75(100%)

Table VII denotes frequently used database in Annapoorana Engineering College library is IEEE (43%), J-GATE (68%),

DELNET (65%), and ACM- Digital library (41%).

TABLE VIII SEARCHING MECHANISM ADOPTED

S. No.	Searching mechanism	Frequently used	Moderately used	Rarely used	Total
1.	By library catalogue	32(43%)	23(31%)	20(26%)	75(100%)
2.	By author catalogue	26(35%)	39 (52%)	10(13%)	75(100%)
3.	By title catalogue	30(40%)	37(49%)	8(11%)	75(100%)
4.	By Online public access catalogue (OPAC)	34(45%)	26(35%)	15(20%)	75(100%)
5.	By Boolean logic	28(37%)	31(41%)	16(22%)	75(100%)

Table VIII denotes most of the faculties in Annapoorana Engineering College are using library catalogue method (43%) and OPAC catalogue method (45%) frequently,

author catalogue method (52%), title catalogue method (49%) and Boolean logic method (41%) moderately used.

TABLE IX LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH LIBRARY RESOURCES

S. No.	Level of satisfaction	Professor	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Total
1.	Extremely satisfied	14	12	10	36 (48%)
2.	Satisfied	4	8	7	19 (25%)
3.	Neutral opinion	3	4	4	11 (15%)
4.	Dissatisfied	2	3	1	6 (8%)
5.	Extremely dissatisfied	1	2	-	3 (4%)
	Total	24	29	22	75 (100%)

Table IX clearly depicts the faculties' level of satisfaction with the use of library resources. From the sample respondents 48% are extremely satisfied with the institution library, 25% of them are satisfied, 15% of them have neutral opinion, 8% of them are dissatisfied and 4% of them are extremely dissatisfied.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions were observed from the questionnaire by the faculty members in order to improve the services and facilities of the Annapoorana Engineering College at Salem.

1. Implement comprehensive and effective library management procedures in the college will trickle down to better library service from library staff and relevant library experience for the users.
2. Back volumes of reputed journals like IEEE, IEE and Springer – link may be added in the library for research purpose.
3. The provision of adequate information resources and sensitized the users technicality of library through harmonized library instruction program.
4. There should be adequacies of library's information systems and availability of the required information resources in the libraries.
5. Library management should properly address the environmental factors of library space, comfort of seats, chairs, tables and shelves.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Nevertheless, the users still visit the library on a daily basis to search for the information that they need for scholastic performance, personal knowledge gain and for research purpose. However, most of them do not get the information that they need. Thus, they believe that the college library should be improved. The faculties should be encouraged to use of library sources for study and research. The librarians should provide proper training in the use of online information sources. Therefore, there is a need to provide proper guidance and training to the scientific community in the use of electronic information resources. The present study concluded that the faculties of Annapoorana Engineering College make use of library to the moderate extent and they are satisfied with that.

REFERENCES

- [1] Dhyani. P., (1974, May-June). Need for library instruction to readers in Rajasthan University (India): a survey, *UNESCO bulletin for libraries*, 28(3), 156-159.
- [2] Lohar M. S. & Kumar Mallinath. (2002). Use of Library facilities and information resources in Sahyadri College, Shimoga (Karnataka): A study, *Annals of Library science and Documentation*, 49(3), 73-87.
- [3] Doraswamy, M. (2012). Information Use Patterns of Postgraduate Students: A case Study of P. B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, India, *Chinese Librarianship: An international Electronic journal*, 30. Retrieved from <http://www.ICLC.us/cliej/cl30doraswamy.Pdf>, on: 15/09/13.
- [4] Kumar, K. & Kumbar, M. (2013). Use of Electronic Resources and Search Patterns by Faculty of Autonomous Engineering Colleges in Karnataka: A survey, *International Journal of Library Science*, 8(2). Retrieved from <http://www.ceserp.com/home/V.Sn.z:2013/kumar-kumbar.pdf> on: 20/08/13.