Information Seeking Behavior among Students in Selected Arts & Science Colleges at Salem District affiliated to Periyar University – A Case Study

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Abstract

Information leads the day-to-day activities of the people. Everyone needs information. Effective usage of information determine the level of satisfaction on the fulfillment of needs. This study aims at analyzing the information seeking behavior of students of selected arts and Science College in Salem district.

Keywords: Information sources, Information seeking behavior.

INTRODUCTION

Information seeking behavior is the application of attitudes through set of actions in order to achieve information need. When attitudes and actions are collaborated the performance emerges. Based on the level of performance, the satisfaction level of the acquired information is determined.

NEED OF THE STUDY

The transition in infrastructure of libraries need to know whether the students cope with the transition phase. The healthy competition among librarians in developing their library in terms of size, collection and technology and their interest in serving the users affect the information seeking behavior of students. This aspect needs a study on information seeking behavior of students of selected Arts and science colleges.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY
- To identify the information needs and information seeking behavior of the students.
- To study the opinion of students towards resources work environment.
- To assess the level of satisfaction on the provision of library resources and services
- To provide practical suggestion for to improve the work place.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Following Methods were adopted in selecting the sample for conducting this study.

Research design : Descriptive research

Sampling Method : Convenience sampling

Geographical Area : Salem (3 College)

      1. Government Arts College for women, Salem

      2. Vysya College, Salem

      3. Padmavani college of arts and science, Salem

Sampling Frame : Both UG & PG Students

Sampling Period : 3 Months

Sample Size : 115

Data Collection Methods : Both primary & Secondary Data

Instrument Need in Collecting Data : Structured questionnaire

Statistical tools : Percentage analysis

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Sample size

S.No	No. of Questionnaries distributed	No. of Questionnaries distributed	%
1	120	115	95.83

Questionnaires were distributed among the students of three Arts and Science College in Salem .Number of questionnaires distributed and the response received are shown in table.

Table 2: Institution wise Distribution of Questionnaires

S. No	College	No. of Questionnaries distributed	No. of Questionnaries distributed	%
1	Government Arts college for women	40	37	32.17
2	Vysya College	40	39	33.91
3	Padmavani College of Arts and science	40	39	33.91
	Total	120	115	99.99

Table 2 shows that questionnaires were evenly distributed and the response rate is also evenly distributed.

Table 3: Table showing the time spend on an average in libraries

S. No	Usage	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Less than I hour	19	16.52
2	2-3hour	43	37.39
3	3-4 hour	22	19.13
4	4-5 hour	21	18.26
5	More than 5 hour	10	8.7
	Total	115	100

Interpretation:
From the above table it is found that 37.39 % of the students spent time 2 – 3 hours per day in the library.

Table 4: Table showing reasons for visiting library

S. No	Usage	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	To photocopy the materials	16	13.91
2	Reference section	7	6.1
3	To borrow the books	21	18.26
4	To access periodicals	13	11.3
5	To access digital library	10	8.7
6	To read newspapers	11	9.56
7	To access text / reference books	37	32.17
	Total	115	100

Interpretation:
From the above table it is found that 32.17% of the students visiting library for seeking information about their subjects text / reference books.

Table 5: Table showing the methods of information seeking behavior

S. No	Methods	Level of Satisfaction	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Discuss with librarians	Highly Satisfied	32	27.82
2	Consult with teachers	Satisfied	30	26.1
3	Look for e-devices	Unsatisfied	25	21.74
4	Discuss with seniors	Highly Unsatisfied	12	10.43
5	Browse in the library catalogue	Neutral	16	13.91
		Total	115	100

Interpretation:
From the above table it is found that 27.82% of the students are highly satisfied with consulting with their teachers for seeking information.

Table 6: Table showing the purpose of information seeking

S. No	Purpose for seeking information	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	General awareness	20	17.39
2	Prepare for class notes	30	26.08
3	Project work / workshop / seminar	34	29.56
4	Reading / thinking purpose	17	14.8
5	Preparing answer for questions	14	12.17
	Total	115	100

Interpretation:
From the above table it is found that 29.56% of the students preparing for their work related to project /seminar /workshop.

Table 7: Table showing the satisfaction of services in the library

S. No	Services	Satisfaction level	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Issue & Return of books	Very Important	40	34.8
2	Inter library loan	Important	19	16.52
3	Photocopy services	Somewhat Important	20	17.39
4	Current awareness service	Not at all Important	25	21.73
5	Bibliographical services	Neutral	11	9.56
		Total	115	100

Interpretation:
From the above table it is found that 34.81% of the students are very much satisfied for their issue and return of book services.

MAJOR FINDINGS

❖ 37.39 % of the students spent time 2 – 3 hours per day in the library.

❖ 32.17% of the students visiting library for seeking information about their subjects text / reference books.

❖ 27.82 of the students are highly satisfied with consulting with their librarians for seeking information

❖ 29.56 % of the students preparing for their work related to project /seminar /workshop.

❖ 34.8 % of the students are very much satisfied for their issue and return of book services.

SUGGESTION
The current human society is living in an information age. The important role of information has been recognized as a vital aspect in the Teaching learning process and other extension activities of the students. Information seeking behavior of users is changing to a number of dimensions which are detailed above in the article. The results of the present study is to improve and enhance the quality services and it is necessary to help the students to fulfill their information needs and requirements for their optimum use of resources and improve their information seeking skills.

CONCLUSION

In general all the students irrespective of gender, location of the institution where they study and course of study should be educated on using library resources. They have to be educated on identifying rightly their information needs and their information seeking behavior should be sharpened. students should frequently be given User Education Programs.

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