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REVIEW ARTICLE

EFFECTIVENESS OF LIBRARY INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENTS OF SELF-FINANCING B-SCHOOLS IN KERALA

***,¹Manoharan Pillai, P. M. and ²Dr. Vijayakumar, A.**

¹Research Scholar, Karpagam University, Librarian, T.K.M.Institute of Management, Kollam, India

²Research Guids, Karpagam University, Deputy Librarian, Srisankara University, University of Sanskrit, Kalady, India

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ABSTRACT

Information is a common term, often used by people of different professions. It is a resource that is naturally needed in all human endeavors, very crucial to the development of a nation, without which there would be no society. With the deluge of available information, each person needs information of increasing variety. The library has come to play a significant role as a repository of knowledge to the information needs of all groups in the community where it is located. The librarian should be aware of what kind of information is being sought and how it can be obtained. Because of the rapidly escalating cost of purchasing and archiving printed scholarly journals and electronic media, the library has the duty to provide and maintain efficient services. Many electronic resources are available in the library. The increase in information available on the web has affected information seeking behaviour. Information seeking behaviour differs among user groups. It is expressed in various forms from reading printed material to research and experimentation. Factors that affect information seeking behavior include personal reasons for seeking information, the kind of information being sought, and the ways and sources with which needed information is being sought. Information users make active and international attempts to seek up-to-date information from the library resources, including electronic sources.

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INTRODUCTION

Studies relating to information needs categorise needs as perceived needs and actual or idealised needs, immediate needs, and deferred needs, continuous needs and discrete needs. The B-school library is one type of library is a continuum of libraries concerned with information literacy and lifelong learning. There are a number of B-school libraries in Kerala. Among these libraries only a few of them maintain high standards, TKM institute of Management, Rajagiri School of Social Science, SCMS, Berman's Institute of Management, etc. are the foremost among them. Information means data presented in readily comprehensible form to which meaning has been attributed within the context of its use. International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science defines "Information is an assemblage of data in a comprehensive form capable of communication and use, the essence of it is that a meaning has been attached to the few facts". 'Information Behaviour' is the currently preferred term used to describe the many ways in which human beings interact with information, in particular, The ways in which people seek and utilize information.

Information behaviour encompasses information seeking as well as the totality of other unintentional or passive behaviours (such as glimpsing or encountering information), as well as purposive behaviours that do not involve seeking, such as avoiding information.

Relevance of the study

Today information technology has developed rapidly and has had a huge impact on access to information and on information seeking behavior. Librarian and library staff have to know and examine the criteria of information services designing new information systems, intervening in the operation of existing systems of planning in service programs. However, it is seen that no useful studies in this direction has conducted so far in B-school library. There the investigator decided to conduct a study in this direction. Information seeking is the process or activity of attempting to obtain information in both human and technological contexts.

Information seeking is related to but yet different from Information Retrieval (IR).

***Corresponding author: Manoharan Pillai, P. M**
Research Scholar, Karpagam University, Librarian, T.K.M.Institute of Management, Kollam, India.

Review of Literature

It deals with the studies so far conducted in the field of effectiveness of library information support. Both Indian and international journals were scanned for this purpose. A review is a required part of grant research proposals and often a chapter in theses and dissertations generally the purpose of a review is to analyse critically a segment of a published body of knowledge through summary classification and comparison of prior research studies, reviews of literature, and theoretical articles. It also helps the researcher in identifying the possible correlates of the variables under study. **Ellis et al. (1993)** made a comparative study of the information seeking pattern of a group of research physicists and social scientists. **Lilitha (1995)** made a comparative study on the information seeking behaviour of medical and engineering personnel and their library use. The study conducted among the medical and engineering personnel at different levels such as students, teachers, practitioners and research workers from various institutions in Trivandrum, Kerala. Reddy and **Kurisiddappa (1997)** conducted a study on the information seeking behaviour of 160 professionals in the field of disabilities in India. **Accamma C Korah and Devarajan (1991)** study the information needs and use pattern of scientist utilizing literature on rubber at the rubber research institute of India. The information seeking behaviour of Indian Space Technologies was studied by **Sridar (1995)**.

Methodology

The methodology followed for the study is literature search, Questionnaire and interview schedule for librarians. The literature, mainly journal articles, encyclopedias, reports, books and thesis in the field of user study was studied to get a thorough idea about the field of study.

Effectiveness of Information support

It provides a detailed account of information in general, sources of information, qualities of information, information users, user needs, user behaviour, information seeking behaviour in general, definitions by various authors, information seeking process, information seeking situations, motives of seeking information, characteristics, factors governing information seek, categories of information seeking and different models proposed by library science professionals.

Aims and Objectives

Most of the college library keeps some objectives in relation with their services. To provide an opportunity to make the best use of reading materials available in the form of book materials and non-book materials. To help the parent body to carry out its programs. Helping the teachers and students of the colleges in preparation of their instructional courses and in keeping abreast of current development in different subject area.

Acquisition, processing, storage and retrieval of publications related to academic course of the college. To provide information to its users timely and accurately.

Analysis of Data

This study was conducted to find out effectiveness of library information support for the students of B.schools. For gathering information majority of users and students will depend upon the B-school library. The questionnaires were distributed to 150 randomly selected users. A simple random sampling procedure without replacement has been adopted in selecting the respondents. All the users were responded and returned the complete questionnaire. The data collected through the questionnaire were analyzed using statistical methods.

Table 1. Time spent in library by the student users

Category	No: of Respondents	Percent
Less than 1 hr	06	04
One hr	08	05
Two hrs	19	13
Three hrs	22	15
More than three hrs	95	63
Total	150	100

Source: Survey data

With regard to the time spent in the library by users table 1 shows that 04 percent users spend less than one hr in the library, 05 percent spend one hr, 13 percent spend two hrs, 15 percent spent three hrs and the remaining 63 percent spent more than three hours in the library.

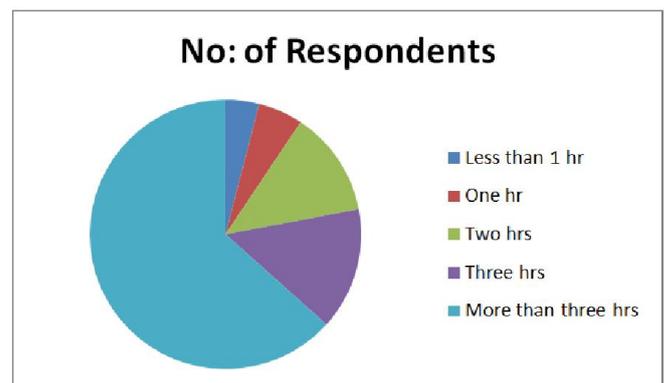


Fig. 1. Time spent in library by the student users

Table 2. Information services used by the respondents

S.No.	Category	No: of Respondents	Percent
1.	To borrow and return books	52	35
2.	To use online data base/e-journals	22	15
3.	To read newspapers & magazines	32	21
4.	To consult Dissertations/Theses	12	08
5.	OPAC search browsing	8	05
6.	Reprography service	24	16

Source: Survey data

Table 2 reveals that the use of book borrowing are used mostly (35 percent) by the student users, followed by online database/e-journals (15 percent), reprography services (16 percent), newspapers & magazines (21 percent), OPAC search browsing (5 percent), consult dissertations/theses (8 percent).

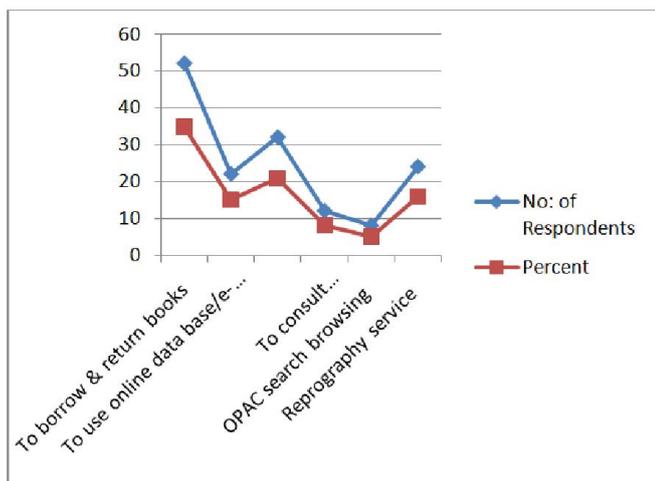


Fig. 2. Information services used by the respondents

Findings, Suggestions and conclusion

Library Collection

Programs

At present, the institutes conducts course of Post-graduate Management education. The course is designed to give students an extensive understanding of the nuances of various management disciplines spread over 2 years (4 semesters). The program specifically aims at imparting the students the state-of-the art knowledge of the concepts and techniques of management developing the ability to comprehend the environment and acquire analytical decision-making and fostering a novel approach to work.

Library Collection

Books, Periodicals/ Magazines, Journals – National and International, News paper, E-Journals, C D ROMs, Research Reports/Project Reports, Bounded Journals, Case study Materials/ Printed Documents.

Working Hours

The weekly working days of all libraries is from Monday to Saturday except public holidays. The working time of 50% of the library is from 8am to 6pm, 20% of the library is 9am to 5pm, and the remaining libraries is average 8am to 7pm, 8am to 8pm respectively.

Users of the library

Majority of the college library users are constitutes students, teaching and non-teaching staff of the college.

Library membership

In most of the college, membership is open to the students and teaching and non-teaching staff of all colleges. As soon as the students are admitted in the college they becoming to the members of the library. Similarly teaching and non-teaching

staff enter in to their college service them becoming the member of the Library.

Books will be issued only on the production of identity card. The membership period will be completed with the faculties relieving from the job.

Loan period

Most of the college library followed by an automatic circulation system with appropriate software. Each student is given Identity card from library. The details of issue and return of books are also entered in to the computer. Bar-coding system has introduced in most of the libraries. Reference books are never issued to the users. For students an overdue of each book per day fine is levied in cause of books not returned on the due date. But there is no stipulation for teaching and non-teaching staff. Book reservation facility is also provided.

Library organization

Documents in the library were organized according to an appropriate classification. All documents in the majority of libraries are computerized and bar-coded.

Library Finance

Most of the colleges have a separate budget allocations every year. A portion of it is given to library. This is the main source of finance for library.

Acquisition procedure

The titles are often selected by the director and expert committee of all colleges. Sometimes they select books from exhibitions or sometimes publishers bring their new books in the institutes. These two methods are often adopted for the selection of books. On an average around 500 books are added to the college every year in each college.

Library services

Library renders various kinds of information services to its users. This include lending of documents, reference services, display of new books, photocopying services, newspaper clipping services, etc.

IT based service

Most of the institutions having a well equipped computer lab having more than hundreds of computers with internet connectivity is available to the students. It fulfills the current information needs of the library users.

On-line data base

On-line data bases, as far as management students are concerned, are very much useful, in seeking this required information. On-line data bases may either bibliographical or full text data bases or 24 hours wireless connectivity (Wi-Fi).Using this information via intranet website also.

Example

Ebsco, J-gate, Emeralds, Pro-Quest, etc.

Conclusion

Majority of the colleges have computer and other modern information infrastructure. But it is insufficient in meeting and satisfying the information needs of the academic community. An examination of the information infra-structure of post-graduate management colleges points to the need for effective strategies and implementable policies to overcome the challenges such as lack of sufficient infra-structural facilities, lack of qualified library professionals, lack of awareness and lack of access to electronic resources, so as to reduce information gap exists in the higher education sector in Kerala. Furthermore, the situation of the college libraries is not up to the mark. The college libraries, especially at the post-graduate management level, must be strengthened with electronic resources so that the information search and retrieval become fast and easy. Hence each of these libraries has to act as the heart of the respective institutions and inculcate a library centered education, which will focus on self study.

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