

INFORMATION USE AMONG THE POST GRADUATE STUDENTS IN BISHOP HEBER COLLEGE: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The current information technology not only empowers users with wider choices for seeking information but also necessitates them to possess technical skills. Information has an explosion of growth. The user does not know how to get the right information from the right resources. The paper explains the information use among the P.G. Students of Bishop Heber College. Questionnaire was used as the data collection tool. The responses are analysed to rank the purpose and level usage of Library, and to know how the users locate the information. The responses were analysed using t-test, chi-square using SPSS. The analysis showed that the respondents have a minimum experience of seeking information resources from their college library and there is a need to evaluate the library resources and facilities in the right of the changing needs of the users.

Keywords: Information use, Information resources, Post Graduate Students.

I. INFORMATION

Information can be encoded into various forms for transmission and interpretation (for example information may be encoded into a sequence of signs or transmitted via a sequence of signals). It can also be encrypted for safe storage and communication.

Information is valuable because it can affect behaviour, a decision, or an outcome. Information is all around and next to matter and energy. It is the most important and common entity in this world. It moves the world. Being a much over used term, it is least understood and there is no consensual definition of it. But its properties are numerous and well recognized.

I.I. Role of information

Information has been defined as a flow; hence communication is its essence. Information and its communication are vital for the following reasons¹.

a) To create a survival mechanism of defence and protection at all levels.

b) To be a basis for cooperation in society which in essence is interdependence and cooperation. It is used in large scale to coordinate and control the activities of people for their collective survival, safety, welling and progress.

c) To gain and maintain power over others

d) To dominate other species, and manipulate nature: humans preside over this earth and space.

1.2. Information need

1.2.1. Definition for information Need

According to Martyn “information need is not a psychological state of mind rather it is an objective need oriented towards particular tasks, problem etc”.²

Information needed for academic work is to be provided by resources centres such as libraries, information centres and archives.

Information needs vary from individuals, their working conditions, the discipline in which they are working, and the time. Martyn says that different types of information needs of individuals may be identified based on the stage of project or activity. Two types of information needs have namely internal and external identified.

II. REVIEW LITERATURE

Frank well Dulle and Alex Alphonse (2016) assessed the awareness and usage of a discovery tool known as LibHub among undergraduate students in their research projects’ undertakings. The study involved respondents who were randomly selected from purposively chosen four degree courses in the Faculty of Agriculture at the Sokoine University Agriculture in Tanzania. Copies of semi-structured questionnaire were distributed to 200 respondents for self-administration. Of the returned copies of the questionnaire, 158 (79%) were found complete and useful for further analysis. The findings of the study indicate that majority of respondents who knew and used LibHub were those who previously attended information literacy trainings at the University as compared to those who had never attended such trainings. Respondents who acknowledged to have used LibHub in their online information search endeavours cited ability to access information from various sources using a single authentication as the major advantage of this research tool.

Prakash Bhairu Bilawar etal (2016) investigated the impact of e-information literacy on information seeking behavior of university teachers in the state of Maharashtra. Questionnaire method was used to collect data on information-seeking behavior of teachers. The study confirms that teachers are able to evaluate information critically and can classify/compare the information better after undergoing the e-

information literacy programmer. The paper concludes that e-information literacy empowers the university teachers to enhance e-information search skills effectively and independently for taking informed decisions

Felcy Lewis and Mallaiah (2014) studied on the use of information resources by the students, faculty members and research scholars in the engineering college libraries of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts. Questionnaire was used as the data collection tool. The responses on awareness and satisfaction level on various library resources were gathered using Likert's 5point scale. The responses were analyzed using twoway ANOVA, Tukey HSD, Factor Analysis and Fisher's Exact Test. The analysis showed that respondents do experience inadequacy of information resources in their college libraries. The hypothesis formulated in this connection was proved by the study. Results showed that there were significant differences in the satisfaction level of information resources among the respondents of various categories. There is need to evaluate the library resources, facilities and services regularly to meet the changing needs of the users.

III. AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to find out the "Information use among the Post Graduate Students in Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli."

IV. BISHOP HEBER COLLEGE

Bishop Heber College exists to impart quality Higher Education with creativity to all, especially the poor, the needy and the under-privileged, to cause their holistic development in response to the great commandment and love of our Lord Jesus Christ and contribute towards building a great India.

V. OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To rank the sources used to locate of information.
- ✓ To rank the purposes of usage of Library.
- ✓ To find out the level of usage of information sources.

VI. HYPOTHESIS

1. There is a significant association between gender and overall level of usage of information sources.
2. There is a significant association between stream of programme and overall level of usage of information sources.
3. There is a significant association between nature of program of study and overall level of usage of information sources.

VII. RESEARCH DESIGN

The present study has applied descriptive design of research.

VIII. QUESTIONNAIRE AND SAMPLE

A well designed questionnaire was prepared with demographic and research questions 100 questionnaires were distributed among the Post Graduate students. 85 students responded positively. The entire 85 questionnaires were taken for the analysis and interpretation; thus the percentage of response was 85.

IX. STATISTICS USED

Chi-square and 't' test were applied in the study using SPSS Package

X. LIMITATION

The study is limited to only Post Graduate Students of Bishop Heber College, Trichy.

TABLE:1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Gender		
Demographic Details	Frequency	Percent
Female	49	57.6
Male	36	42.4
Total	85	100
Stream of Study		
Demographic Details	Frequency	Percent
Arts	44	51.8
Science	41	48.2
Total	85	100
Nature of Program		
Demographic Details	Frequency	Percent
Aided	43	50.6
Self Finance	42	49.4
Total	85	100

From the table it is observed that more than half of the respondents are females (57.6%) and more than half of them belong to Arts Stream (51.8%). More or less equal number of respondents belongs to Aided (50.6%) and Self-Finance (49.4%) category.

TABLE: 2 - Ranking based on the source of information generally consulted

S. No.	Options	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Library	17 (20%)	22(25.9%)	21(24.7%)	12(14.1%)	5(5.9%)	8(9.4%)
2	Faculty member's	6(7.1%)	15(17.6%)	22(25.9%)	20(23.5%)	18(21.2%)	4(4.7%)
3	Internet	34(40%)	14(16.5%)	10.(11.8%)	13(15.3%)	7(8.2%)	7(8.2%)
4	Knowledgeable persons in the field	15(17.6%)	16(18.8%)	14(16.5%)	14(16.5%)	16(18.8%)	10(11.8%)
5	Friends	11(12.9%)	13(15.3%)	13(15.3%)	14(16.5%)	14(16.5%)	20(23.5%)
6	Seniors	2(2.4%)	5(5.9%)	5(5.9%)	12(14.1%)	25(29.4%)	36(42.4%)

The table interprets that internet is the number one source of information consulted. This is followed by library, subject experts, friends, faculty members and seniors.

TABLE:3 Ranking based on the purpose of seeking information

S. No.	Option	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Preparing for class notes	11(12.9%)	12(14.1%)	24(28.2%)	10.(11.8%)	8(9.4%)	7.(8.2%)	13(15.3%)
2	Preparing for examinations	11(12.9%)	22(25.9%)	11(12.9%)	11(12.9%)	9(10.6%)	15(17.6%)	6(15.3%)
3	For updating knowledge	39(45.9%)	12(14.1%)	8(9.4%)	4(4.7%)	7(8.2%)	8(9.4%)	7(8.2%)
4	For recreational reading	14(16.5%)	17(20.0%)	15(17.6%)	13(15.3%)	11(12.9%)	5(5.9%)	10(11.8%)
5	For preparations of project reports	6(7.1%)	12(14.1%)	12(14.1%)	18(21.2%)	19(22.4%)	8(9.4%)	10(11.8%)
6	Preparations of	2(2.4%)	8(9.4%)	13(15.3%)	16(18.8%)	19(22.4%)	22(25.9%)	5(5.9%)

	assignments							
7	For presentation of paper for seminars/conferences	3(3.5%)	2(2.4%)	3(3.5%)	13(15.3%)	12(14.1%)	20(23.5%)	32(37.6%)

From the table it is observed that updating of knowledge is ranked as number one reason for seeking information. This is followed by preparing for class notes and preparing for examinations.

TABLE: 4 -The overall level of usage of information sources

	Frequency	Percent
Low Level	24	28.2
Medium Level	37	43.5
High Level	24	28.2
Total	85	100.0

The overall level of use of information resources reveals that it is of medium level with regard to post graduate students of Bishop Heber College.

HYPOTHESIS.1

T-Test with gender and overall level of usage of information sources

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Statistical Inference
Female	49	32.18	6.849	t=1.225

Male	36	33.97	6.367	Df=83 P=0.224 P>0.05 Not Significant
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The 't' test with regard to the variable gender and overall level of use of information resources reveal that there is no significant association among the two of them, thus it is proved that the above hypotheses are rejected.

HYPOTHESIS.2

T-Test with Programme of Study and overall level of usage of information

Programme of Study	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Statistical Inference
Arts	44	32.41	5.970	t=0.760
Science	41	33.51	7.379	Df=83 P=0.449 P>0.05 Not Significant

The 't' test with regard to the variable programme of study and overall level of use of information resources reveal that there is no significant association among the two, thus it is proved that the above hypotheses is rejected

FINDINGS

- 57.6% of respondents are Females.
- 51.8 of the students belong to Arts steam.
- More than half of the students (50.6%) from Aided section.
- 57.6% of the students are using textbooks.
- 50.6% of the respondents are satisfied with using journals/magazines.
- 54.1% are using project reports which are highly preferred
- 45.9% of respondents feel that he theses and dissertation are very useful resources.

- 47.1% of respondents feel that the resources at library and discussion with friends are useful.
- 47.1% of respondents have attended the library training and orientation programs.
- More than half of respondents (54.1%) have attended the library seminars and workshops.
- More than half (56.5%) are using telephone calls.
- More than half (56.5%) is using email for information sharing?
- 49.4% respondents are using the internet.
- More than half (56.5%) are using social networks.
- More than half (52.9%) are using E-journals.
- 45.9% are using E-books.

CONCLUSION

Information seeking is a primary activity of life. People seek information to deepen and broaden their understanding of the world around them. When information seeking in libraries is placed in a larger context of learning, the user's perspective becomes an essential component in information provision. When the user's experience in the process of learning from information does not match the way the system is designed to provide information, serious problems arise. Librarians should understand the user's perspective to design more effective information services.

Students of higher education need information for the enrichment of their educational experience. The present study has revealed that Post Graduate Students rely on internet for information search than Library resources. More than half of the students use email, e-journals and social networks for information sharing. It is time, Libraries make the best of efforts to attract the young student users to become regular users of valuable library resources.

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