



USE OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS (IIA) LIBRARY, KODAIKANAL: A STUDY

Keerthi P V, Shehitha Salim, Yamuna P B

Assistant Librarian, Bhavan's Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kakkanad, India

SB College Kottayam, Kerala, India

SB College Kottayam, Kerala, India

Abstract: The study investigated the usage of library by staff of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory evaluating their use of information sources and services provided by the library. The data collected through questionnaire method, and it was analysed by using simple statistical method. The library has special information resources like photographic plates of numerous occasions, planets, comets, and other celestial objects. Also, collection of maps, solar charts etc. are included in the library. The library has a wide range of house of archive collection it includes manuscripts range from 1792, Annual reports from 1922, photograph collection at least 50 years back and paintings also.

Keywords: Library Use, Information Sources, Information Services, IIA Library

1. INTRODUCTION

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics is a premier institute devoted to research in astronomy, astrophysics and related physics. It traces its origins back to an observatory set up in 1786 at Madras which from the year 1792 began to formally function at its Nungambakkam premises as the Madras Observatory. In 1899, the observatory moved to Kodaikanal. In the year 1971, the Kodaikanal Observatory became an autonomous society, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. The library in the mountain observatory is a star attraction serving the researchers and students specializing in observational astronomy. As a storehouse of information, it is very useful to historians who trace the history of colonial science, as this observatory and the library hold old instruments and collections of printed treasures in astronomy dating back to the 17th century. And the library has a tremendous role in disseminating adequate information to the scientist and preserving the collection in a good manner. The resources in the IIA Kodaikanal library are considered a valuable asset to Indian Science. The present study aims to a detailed study about information sources, services and problems while using the library.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Khan (2021) examined the collection development management and use of manuscripts in National Library Kolkata Rampur Raza Library Rampur and Maulana Azad Library Aligarh. The objectives of this study are to know about the different forms, scripts and languages of manuscripts available in the libraries; to explore the current practices of collection development and its policies relating to manuscripts adopted by the libraries under study. The study found maximum of the users of the libraries expressed that they are visiting the library on daily basis followed by the visits of users on weekly basis or visiting the library only when they need the use of library. Maximum users use the

manuscripts of the library for their research work followed by updating their knowledge regarding the information available in manuscripts. The conclusion of the study is that there has always been an indispensable urge of mankind to communicate the ideas with one another. During the course of the human history, when writing was not known to anyone, the communication of ideas and feelings were take place only through verbal means. But with the passage of time, man learned to write and express those ideas in different physical formats which now we call as manuscripts. **Jamoh et al. (2021)** evaluated study on library services and facilities for Specially- Abled users in the selected district libraries of Arunachal Pradesh. The objectives are to identify the type of collection available in the libraries for specially-abled users, and to know the special facilities and infrastructure available for specially-abled users, and to know the assistive equipment and devices provided to them, and to identify any online training program offered for the library staff for serving the disabled. The survey findings reveal that although District Library Tezu provides services like Current awareness service, online service, and Specialized reference service, District Library Changlang and District Library Pasighat have Specialized reference services, only but facilities and services for specially-abled users are not adequate. The study shows that among these three libraries, only district library Tezu has separate room for special users along with a reading, children, and newspaper section. The major suggestions of the study are Library should build a special section comprising of documents like Braille Books, Talking Books, and Large Print Books to satisfy the needs of specially-abled users.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i. To examine the use of information resources provided by the IIA library.
- ii. To examine the user's satisfaction level with the services, and facilities provided by the library.
- iii. To identify the problems encountered by users while using the library.

4. METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this study was survey method it includes questionnaire method and observation method.

4.1 Questionnaire Method

Questionnaires are useful tool to collect information and they are the most commonly used tool for data collection. A questionnaire is a series of questions asked to individuals to obtain statistically useful information about a given topic. This study contains two sets of questionnaires, first one is prepared for the faculty and the other is prepared for the librarian. 11 questionnaires were distributed to the staff on the 27th June 2022 and the duly filled questionnaires were received on 29th June 2022.

4.2 Observation Method

Observation becomes a scientific tool and the method of data collection for the researcher, when it serves a formulated research purpose, is systematically planned and recorded and is subjected to checks and controls on validity and reliability. Under the observation method, the information is sought by way of investigator's own direct observation without asking from the respondent (Kothari, 2004). In this study, investigator personally visited the library to distribute the questionnaire among user community. During the visit the investigator observed various activities of the library.

5. ANALYSIS OF DATA

5.1 Frequency of visit

This question is asked to know how often respondents visit the library.

Table 1 Frequency of visit

Sl. No.	Frequency of visit	Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Daily	0	0
2	Weekly	2	13.33%
3	Fortnightly	1	6.66%
4	Monthly	1	6.66%
5	As and when required	11	73%

Table 1 shows that majority 73% of users visit the library as and when they required whereas 13.33% users weekly visit the library. And 6.66% of users visit the library Fortnightly and Monthly. Nobody visits the library daily.

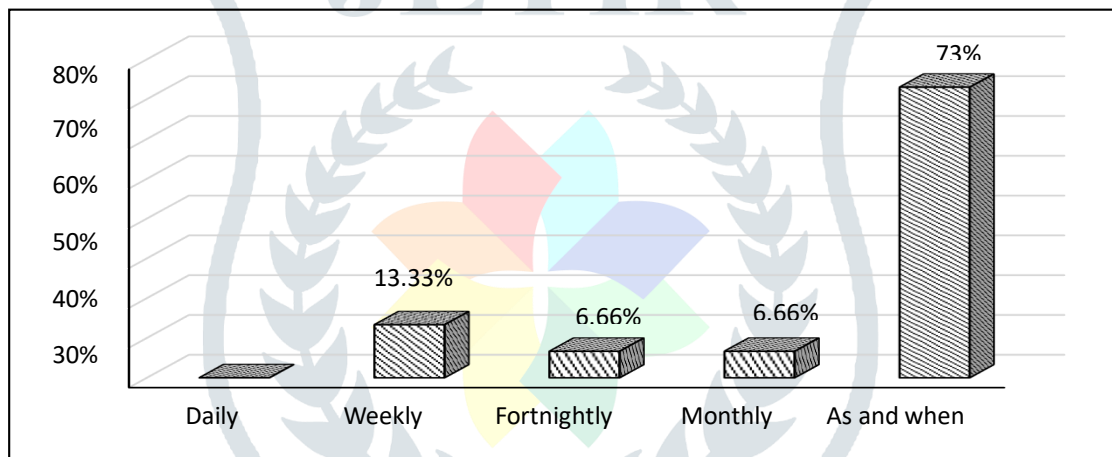


Fig. 1 Column diagram showing frequency of visit

5.2 Purpose

This question is asked to the users to know the purpose of library visit.

Table 2 Purpose

Sl. No.	Purpose	Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Leisure	0	0
2	Research	4	26.66%
3	Reference	4	26.66%
4	Work related	11	73.33%

Multiple responses were received for this question. Table 5.4 shows that majority 73.33% of the users visit the library for work related, and 26.66% of users visit the library for research purpose and reference purpose. None of the users visit the library for leisure purpose.

5.3 Information Sources

This question is asked to know their preferred information sources.

Table 3 Information Sources

Information Sources	Order of preference						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Journal	3 (27.27%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	2 (18.18%)	0	0
Book	5 (45.45%)	2 (27.27%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	0
Conference proceedings	0	1 (9.10%)	3 (27.27%)	2 (18.18%)	0	2 (18.18%)	1 (9.10%)
Research reports	2 (18.18%)	5 (45.45%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	0	0
News Bulletin	0	0	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	0	0
Annual reports	0	0	4 (36.36%)	3 (27.27%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)
Archival collection	0	0	0	2 (18.18%)	1 (9.09%)	2 (18.18%)	1 (9.10%)
Technical Brochure	0	2 (18.18%)	2 (18.18%)	0	0	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)
Patents /Standards/Trademarks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Technical reports	1 (9.10%)	1 (9.10%)	3 (27.27%)	1 (9.10%)	0	0	0

Table 3 shows that that majority of 45.45% respondents give first preference to use books while using the library, whereas 27.27% prefer journal 18.18% prefer Research reports and 9.10% prefer technical report.

5.4 Location of Information

A question was asked to know the preferred location of information

Table 4 Location of Information

Sl. No.	Location of information	Order of preference			
		1	2	3	4
		No. of respondents and percentage			
1	Direct search in shelf	1 (9.10%)	4 (36.36%)	5 (45.45%)	1 (9.10%)

2	Consulting library staff	8 (72.72%)	3 (27.27%)	0	0
3	Through Catalogue card	1 (9.10%)	4 (36.36%)	1 (9.10%)	4 (36.36%)
4	Through OPAC	4 (36.36%)	0	2 (18.18%)	5 (45.45%)

Table 4 shows that 72.72% were give first preference to consulting library staff for collecting their required information whereas 36.36% prefer OPAC, and 9.10% give the first preference to direct search in shelf and catalogue card.

5.5 Satisfaction on Library Services

This question is asked to know the satisfaction on the library services.

Table 5 Satisfaction on library services

Sl. No.	Library services	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied	Not available
		Number of respondents and percentage			
1	Lending service	5 (33.33%)	3 (20%)	0	0
2	Photocopying service	0	0	3 (20%)	3 (20%)
3	Document delivery service	3 (20%)	3 (20%)	3 (20%)	0
4	Current awareness service	2 (13.33%)	3 (20%)	2 (13.33%)	1 (6.66%)
5	Selective dissemination of Information	2 (13.33%)	3 (20%)	2 (13.33%)	1 (6.66%)
6	Translation service	0	0	1 (6.66%)	8 (53.33%)

Table 5 shows that 33.33% of the users are very satisfied on lending services and 20% users on document delivery service and 13.33% users on current awareness service and selective dissemination of information.

5.6 Satisfaction on Library Facilities

This question is asked to know the satisfaction level of the users on library facilities

Table 6 Satisfaction on Library facilities

Sl. No.	Library facilities	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied	Not Available
		Number of respondents and percentage			
1	Library orientation	5 (45.45%)	2 (18.18%)	1 (9.10%)	0
2	Digital Library	0	0	0	11 (100%)
3	Photocopying	0	0	0	11 (100%)
4	Rules and regulations	2 (18.18%)	8 (72.72%)	1 (9.10%)	0
5	Working hours	2 (18.18%)	5 (45.45%)	1 (9.10%)	0

Table 6 shows that 45.45% of the users are very satisfied on library orientation and 18.18% on rules and regulations and working hours. It also shows that 72.72% are satisfied on rules and regulations. 45.45% are satisfied on working hours. Only 18.18% are satisfied on library orientation.

5.7 PROBLEMS

This question is asked to know problems they faced while using the library.

Table 7 Problems

Sl. No.	Problems	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Inadequate sources and services	1	9.10%
2	Lack of knowledge about library facilities and services	2	18.18%
3	Inconvenient working hours	3	27.27%
4	Unhelpful mentality of library staff	0	0
5	Inadequate qualified staff	5	45.45%

Table 7 shows that 45.45% encountered inadequate qualified staff as the major problem, 27.27% faced inconvenient working hours whereas 18.18 % faced lack of knowledge about library facilities and services. Inadequate source and service is the major problem of 9.10% users.

6. FINDINGS

It is evident from the analysis that the majority of the staff visits the library as when they required information and nobody visit the library daily. The study revealed that most of the users visit the library for work related. None of the users visit the library for leisure purpose. The study found that the majority of the respondents used journals as the most preferred information sources while Patents /Standards/Trademarks, conference proceedings, archival collections, annual reports and technical brochure are the least preferred sources in the library. It is found that majority of the users are consulting library staff for collecting their required

information, while direct search in shelf is the least preferred search method. Majority of the users are very satisfied with Library orientation, and most of the users are satisfied with rules and regulation and working hours of the library. Majority of the users are very satisfied with library orientation, and most of the users are satisfied with rules and regulation and working hours of the library. Study also revealed that inadequate qualified staff as the major problem faced while using library.

7. CONCLUSION

The study conclude that library do not have adequate number of qualified staff. It is essential to provide specialised services to support the research activities of users of this observatory. Authorities should take necessary steps to appoint qualified librarians.

REFERENCE

- [1] IIA Library. (2022). <http://library.iiap.res.in/>
- [2] Jamoh, O., Barman, N. & Devi, A. (2021). An Evaluative Study on Library Services and Facilities for Specially-Abled Users in the selected District Libraries of Arunachal Pradesh. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*.
- [3] Khan, N. (n.d.). Conservation and Preservation of Manuscripts at National Library Conservation and Preservation of Manuscripts at National Library of India and Rampur Raza Library: A Study of India and Rampur Raza Library: A Study. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal)*, 6302.
- [4] Kothari, C. (2004). *Research Methodology (2nd ed.)*. New Age International Publication.

