



INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS IN AIDED ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY – A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The present study entitled “Information Seeking Behavior Students and Faculty Members in Aided Arts and Science Colleges affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University – a Study”. Identifies the main aims in using information sources by the respondents, the awareness of the e-resources among the students and faculty members and usage of the different type of e-resources of respondents. A well-structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the users and received with complete details. The overall response rate was (82.62%). The research reveals that majority of students and faculty members Visit library once in a week (42.2%) for Competitive Exam purpose (31%), and Preparing for course work (45.5%). Awareness of Electronic Information Sources is 90.5%. The result also reveals that first preference for using e-book is 49.8%, and second highest preference to using e-resource electronic database is 32.8%.

1. INTRODUCTION

The educational libraries were defined as the “heart” of the ‘getting to know’ community, presenting an area for college students and faculty to focus on their studies and develop their knowledge. In the education system, an educational library is the centre of educational life. Understanding the goal of the institution will help to increase the number of techniques that may be appropriate to achieve meaningful results. For consumer –targeted provider the library wishes to realize the customers and consumer wishes. One of the primary equipment’s used to examine and check the library offerings is the consumer survey. Consumer surveys are conducted to determine consumers' wishes and interests of study.

Trainers must be capable of verifying what statistics is required, realize the sources of statistics which can meet their wishes, realize a way to get right of entry to statistics that can meet their wishes, realize a way to use the statistics to fill their knowledge gap, and mitigate

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Debraj Meher, Mukesh Behera and Monisha Mishra (2022) study is entitled “Information Seeking Behavior in Digital Environment: A Study of Post Graduate and Ph.D. Studens of Orisha Univeristy of Agriculture and Technology”. The main objective of this study is to find out how frequently students visit the library, Define how students prefer to access library resources, and Determine the level of Electronic resources and aware resources awarness. Sample was collected from various colleges at QUAT. A total of 115 usrs out of 136 questionnaires returned with their views with an overall reponse rate of 84.55%. The survey result indicate that Post Graduate and Research Scholars rarely visit the library, the highest number of students visit the library to borrow books and refer to reference materials like Journals, Theses and Reference books. The study also recommended Information Communication Technology infrastructure, as well as print and non-print resources to be provided on a regular basis.

Ranganathan.C (2019) work was entited “Information Sources by Research Scholars and Faculty Members of Biological Science: A Case Study of Bharathidasan Univeristy”. A questionarie method was used to collect sample about use of informatin sources by users. A total of 140 questions designed for the purpose were distributed to all of them, out of which 105 responded to the request with a response rate of 75%. This study identified the relative importance of information sources among research shcolars and bioscience faculty mebmbers in a Univeristy environment. The study result shows that Text books, Journals, Periodicals and Reference materials are the most frequently used. A vast majority of the biologists use Internet to collect information through on-line search (60%). Most of them found that the collection fell short of their information needs.

3. OBJECTIVES

The goals of this Study are:

1. To determine the frequency of library visits by respondents,
2. To know the purpose of library visit of respondents,
3. To find the sources of information seeking academic purpose by the respondents,
4. To find out the type of information sources used by the respondents,
5. To assess the awarness of the e-resources among the students and faculty members,
6. To find out the usage of the different types of e-resouces of respondents, and
7. To find out the reason for preferring e-resources by the respondents..

4. METHODOLOGY

The current study has adopted Survey Method for collecting the comprehensive and related data. A structured questionnaire was framed and distributed among 250 students and 80 faculty members. Out of them 210 students and 65 faculty members gave their response from 10 Aided Autonomous Arts and Science Colleges affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. The questionnaire was personally distributed and collected with constant personal persuasion. The questionnaire filled out was analysed, tabulated, and logically interpreted using the results.

5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1 Questionnaire Distributed and Response Rate

Sl. No.	Respondents	Questionnaires		Response Rate Percentage
		Distributed	Received	
1	Students	250	210	84.00
2	Faculty	80	65	81.25
	Total	330	275	82.62

Table 1 indicates that, out of 330 questionnaires distributed to the students and faculty members, 210 (84%) filled questionnaires were received from the students, and 65 (81.25%) filled questionnaires were received from the faculty members. In total, 275 questionnaires were received with full details and the overall response rate was (82.62%).

Table 2 Gender-Wise Distribution of the Respondents

Sl. No.	Gender	Students (N=210)		Faculty (N=65)		Total (N=275)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	Male	82	39	24	37	106	38.5
2	Female	128	61	41	63	169	61.5
		210		65		275	100

Table 2 shows that the majority of respondents (169) are female (61.5%) and the remaining 106 are male candidates (38.5%).

Table 3 Library visit

A question has been asked to the respondents to know their frequency of library visit. The replies given by them are shown in Table: 3.

Sl. No.	Frequency	Students (N=210)		Faculty (N=65)		Total (N=275)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	Daily	56	26.6	06	9.2	62	22.5
2	Alternative days	34	16.3	05	7.7	39	14.2
3	Once in a week	98	46.6	18	27.7	116	42.2
4	Fortnightly	10	4.8	24	37.0	34	12.4
5	Once in a month	07	3.3	12	18.4	19	6.9
6	Rarely	05	2.4	0	0	5	1.8
		210		65		275	100

It is obvious from Table 3 that majority of respondents (42.2%) visit the library once in a week followed by Daily (22.5%), Alternative days (14.2%), Fortnightly (12.4%), Once in a month (6.9%) and Rarely (1.8%).

Table 4 Purpose of Visit Library

The respondents were asked questions with respect to the purpose of the visiting library:

Sl. No.	Purpose of Seeking Information	Students (N=210)		Faculty (N=65)		Total (N=275)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	For Competitive Exams	78	37.1	07	10.8	85	31.0
2	For studying course books	62	29.6	18	27.7	80	29.0
3	For borrowing e - documents	38	18.0	24	36.9	62	22.5
4	To use reference back volumes	18	8.6	08	12.3	26	9.5
5	To read journals / magazine	14	6.7	08	12.3	22	8.0
		210		65		275	100

Above Table 4 reveals that as for purpose of visit to library by respondents, majority of 31% (85) respondents are for Competitive Exams followed by 29% (80) of the respondents for Studying course books, 22.5% (62) of them for borrowing e-documents, 9.5% (26) are using reference back volumes, and the least percentage of 8% (22) are to read journals ./ magazine.

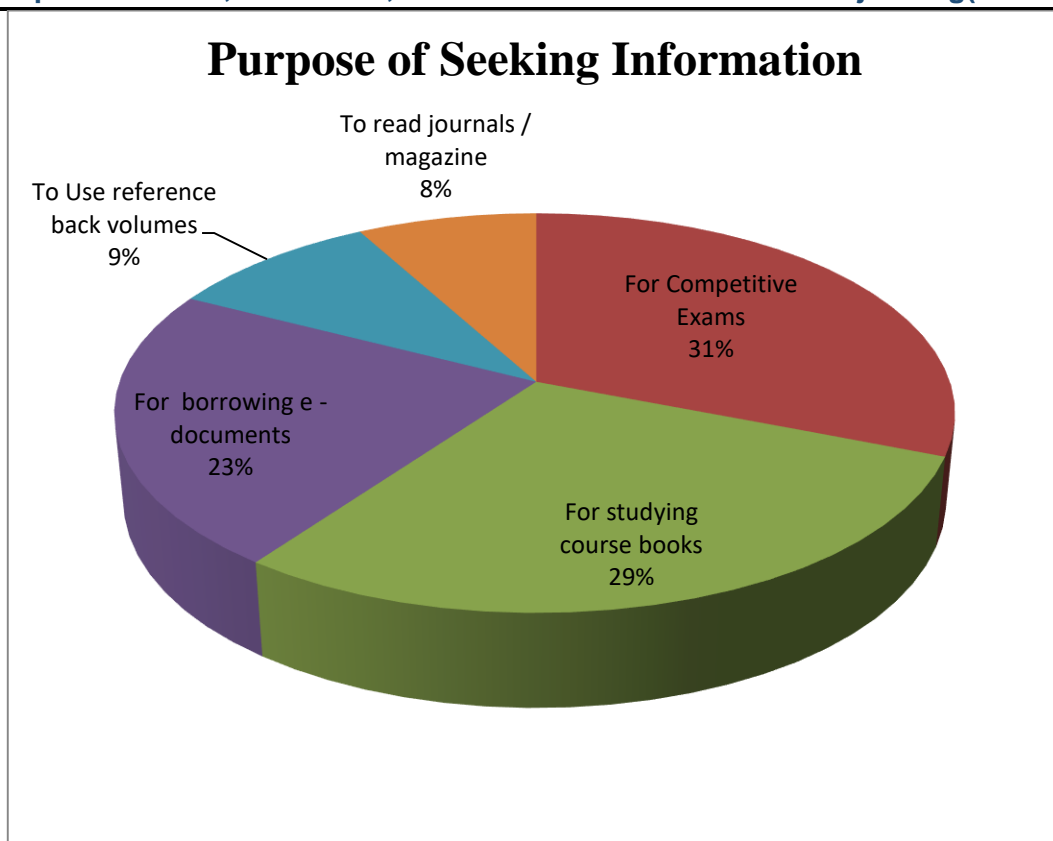


Table 5 Type of seeking Materials

A question has been put to the respondents to know which type of materials they seek in the library. The responses are tabulated in Table 5.

Sl. No.	Type of Seeking Information	Students (N=210)		Faculty (N=65)		Total (N=275)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	To Update Knowledge	74	35.3	13	20.0	87	31.6
2	To Prepare for Course work	108	51.4	06	9.3	114	41.5
3	To Research Purpose	16	7.6	28	43.0	44	16.0
4	To publish article in Seminar / Journal	12	5.7	18	27.7	30	10.9
		210		65		275	100

Table: 5 shows that majority of 114 respondents (41.5%) prefer for Course work materials in library followed by 87 (31.6%) to Update knowledge, 44 (16%) for Research purpose and Least 30 (10.9%) for Publishing article in Seminars / Journals.

Table 6 Type of Information Sources

Sl. No.	Types of Sources	Students (N=210)		Faculty (N=65)		Total (N=275)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	Print Materials only	86	41.0	18	27.6	104	37.8
2	E-resources only	54	25.7	36	55.4	90	32.7
3.	Both Sources	70	33.3	11	17.0	81	29.5
		210		65		275	100

Table 6 shows that print materials are the chief preference (37.8%) of all of the respondents followed by e-resources (32.7%) and finally, 29.5% of both print and e-resources..

Table 7 Awareness of Electronic Information Sources

A question has been posed to the respondents to assess their awareness on electronic information sources available in their library. Their replies are shown in Table 7.

Sl. No.	Respondents	Students (N=210)		Faculty (N=65)		Total (N=275)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	Yes	184	87.6	65	100	249	90.5
2	No.	26	12.4	0	0	26	9.5
		210		65		275	100

Table 7 shows that respondents with Awareness of Electronic Information Sources are 249 (90.5%) and Very little percentage (9.5%) had no awareness of Electronic information sources.

Table 8 Use of Difference Types of E-Resources

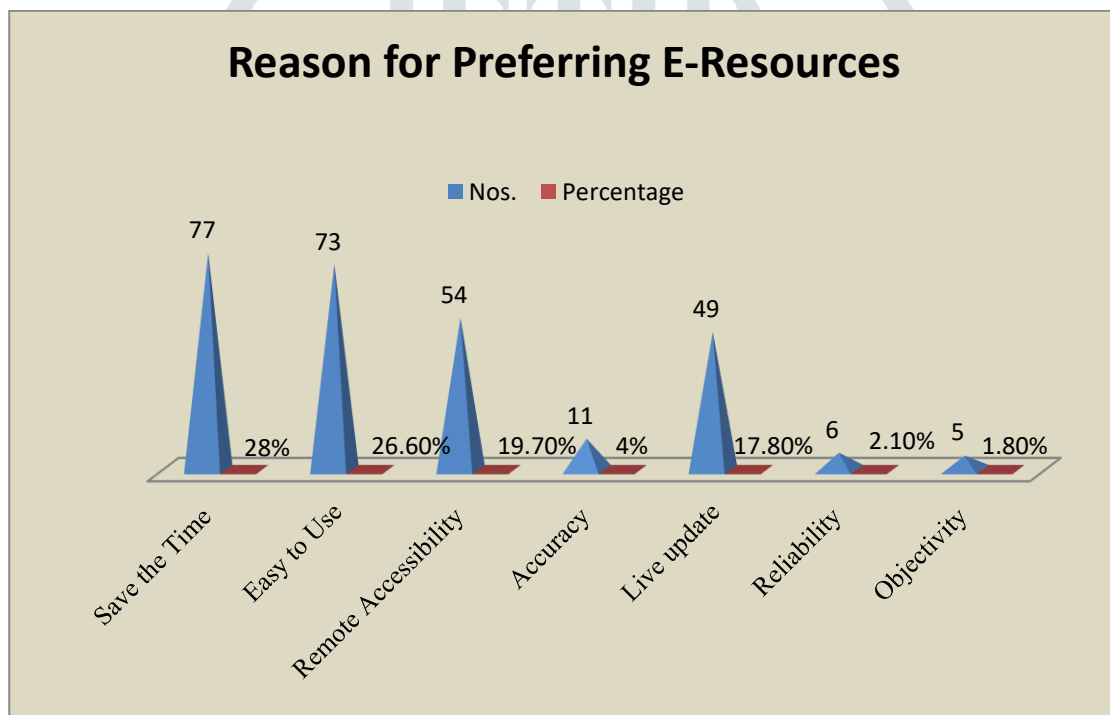
Sl. No.	Type of E-Resources	Students (N=210)		Faculty (N=65)		Total (N=275)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	e-journals / magazine	16	7.7	08	12.3	24	8.7
2	e-books	124	59.0	13	20.0	137	49.8
.	e-database	58	27.6	32	49.3	90	32.8
4.	e-theses / dissertations	12	5.7	12	18.4	24	8.7
		210		65		275	100

The Data shown in Table 7 indicates that the majority 137 (49.8%) of the respondents use e-books as a source of information. Most respondents (90%) also use the Electronic Database (32.8%) to obtain new information, and the lowest of 24 number of respondents (8.7%) consult e-journals, journals and e-theses.

Table 9 Reason for Preferring E-Resources

Sl. No.	Reasons	Students (N=210)		Faculty (N=65)		Total (N=275)	
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	Save Time	62	29.6	15	23.0	77	28.0
2	Easy to Use	63	30.0	10	15.4	73	26.6
3.	Remote Accessibility	32	15.3	22	33.9	54	19.7
4.	Accuracy	08	3.8	03	4.7	11	4.0
5.	Live Updated	38	18.0	11	17.0	49	17.8
6.	Reliability	04	1.9	02	3.0	6	2.1
7.	Objectivity	03	1.4	02	3.0	5	1.8
		210		65		275	100

Table 9 provides the reasons for respondents' preference for electronic information resources. There were 28% respondents who Save the time, followed by Easy to Use (26.6%), Remote Accessibility (19.7%), Live updated (17.8%), Accuracy (4%), Reliability (2.1%) and Least Objectivity (1.8%).



6. CONCLUSION

The study observed Information seeking behavior among students and faculty members in aided Arts and Science colleges in affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University. It is concluded that the majority of respondents are Students, Questionnaire respondents are Female candidates Once in a week (42%) visits are for preparing for Competitive Examinations and course work related materials preparation, Print study materials are maximum used by the respondents, Above 90% of users are aware of Electronic Information sources and Reason for preferring e-resources is to save the time of the reader and Easy to use. The study recommends that Institutions' administrative authorities must subscribe to various online resources which are recommended for study.

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