

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF STUDENTS, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE KALABURAGI UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES RAICHUR, KARNATAKA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This research paper investigates to find out the Knowledge and awareness of information Literacy among Undergraduate Students, College of Agricultural Kalaburagi, University of Agricultural Sciences Raichur, Karnataka State. The primary objectives of the college library is to setup the information literacy program so that the resources available in the library are been used properly. The study will identify the information need, information seeking process information channels level of satisfaction and the Students Behaviors i.e., attitudes the students execute while seeking information. Further the study also extends to identify the services offered at the library.

Keywords: Information, Seeking Behaviour, College of Agricultural, Information Literacy, Libraries, Kalaburagi.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries and Information centers are not only equipped with materials in traditional formats but also in electronic formats offering but also in electronic formats offering users a vast area of selection Library provides wealth of knowledge and other materials to study, articles, reference material and other information whenever students need it.

College of Agricultural Kalaburagi was established in 2011 and it is also managed by the Raichur Agricultural University and all its educational activities in Kalaburagi. This College is also completed nine glorious years of its existence in 2020. A separate building for college and library. The library started building its collection mainly in the subjects of Agricultural Sciences faculties.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To understand the information needs of the students according to their learning environment in Government College of Agricultural Kalaburagi Karnataka
- ❖ To study the present services / facilities provided by the library.
- ❖ To study the impact of Information Technology in Library Services.
- ❖ To identify the information sources consulted by the students.
- ❖ To find out the Problems faced by the students while information seeking.

HYPOTHESIS

- Most of the students are seeking information for study purpose only.
- Majority of the students are satisfied with the existing services offered by the library.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The Scope of the research Project “Information Seeking Behaviour of Students, College of Agricultural Kalaburagi, case study” lies for the period 2019-20. An attempt is made to know how far the library has helped in fulfilling the demands or requirements of students.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

The topic selected for the research work is a case study therefore descriptive method is used. Under the Method data collection is being carried out with the help of questionnaires, which had been distributed among the students and the librarian of the college. In total 120 questionnaires were distributed out of which 100 students responded. Collected data is analyzed and presented in tables.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study will identify the information need, information seeking process information channels level of satisfaction and the Students Behaviour i.e., attitudes the students execute while seeking information. Further the study also extends to identify the services offered at the library and students opinion on library staff.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The College of Agriculture, Kalaburagi (UASR) was established in the year 2011 & is celebrating 9th year of its establishments. Earlier it was started at ZARS Campus and later college shifted to its own new campus near Raneshpear – Rukhum tulla Darga on Aland Road of Kalaburagi city. The district is blessed with many rivers and irrigation projects like Amerga in Aland taluk, Bennethora and Gandorinala projects in Kalaburagi taluka. Objectives are 1. To impart quality agriculture education and allied subjects. 2. To prepare the agriculture graduates with on highly competitive mode for the development of the farming sector. 3. To organize capacity building programme for teaching, research and extension activities.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The Library College of Agriculture, Kalaburagi has started functioning from 2011-12, today with the collection over 9500 books in various disciplines of agricultural and 46 scientific journals in various agricultural subjects. Well-furnished computer laboratory is established along with 35 PC's to create computer awareness and develop the habits of computer usage. Internet facility has been created in the College Library for the students to encourage e-learning, Wi-Fi facilities were also provided in the campus for access essentially to the students. Students, Staff of College of Agricultural, Agriculture Research Station, Extension Education Unit, Krishi Vijnan Kendra are the users. Libraries are important cornerstones of a particular healthy community. Libraries explore agricultural, engineering, medical research, experience new ideas, get lost in wonderful stories, while at the same time providing a sense of place for gathering.

- **Library Holdings** Books - 10200, Books (SC/ST) 129, International Journals – 01, National Journals – 35, Magazines – 15, Newspapers – 08, Computers – 22, CDs – 25, Seating Capacity - 65 and online services
- **ICT Uses in Library** KOHA OPAC an Android App, Library Gate Register Software, Internet Lab and Wi-fi, online sources is available in Library Web Site.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data for the research study was collected through questionnaires. Percentage method is used to derive findings of the study. The questionnaires were distributed among the Students College of Agriculture Kalaburagi, (UASR) Karnataka State. The data collected from the students is analyzed and presented below

Table – 1 Frequency of Library Visit

Duration	Students	Percentage (%)
Daily	42	42 %
Weekly	18	18 %
2 / 3 Times in week	30	30 %
Monthly	10	10 %
Total	100	100 %

As shown in the above table, Majority of students (42%), are visiting the library on daily basis, which is followed by 2-3 times in a week by (30%), (18%), visit library on weekly basis while 10 % students come in the library monthly. This shows that most of the students are visiting the library and know the importance of in Library.

Table - 2 Times Spent in Library

The librarian should know the amount of time spent by the students in the library so a question was raised to students to know how much time users spend in the library. The data collected is tabulated below.

Sl. No.	Time Spent	Number	Percentage
1	Less than 30 Minutes	41	41%
2	Half hour to one hour	32	32 %
3	I hour to 2 hours	18	18 %
4	More than 2 hours	9	9 %

As shown in above table the maximum time spend in the library by students is 30 minutes to one hour (41%), followed by less than 30 minutes (32%), This table shows that student is spending time in library for their academic needs.

Table - 3 Uses of Information Services in the Library

Sl. No.	Information Services	Students Response
1	Book Borrowing	65
2	Online database / e-journals	15
3	Indexing Services	0
4	OPAC Search browsing	45
5	Internet	20
6	Newspaper clipping services	10
7	Reprographic Services	40
8	Selected Dissemination of Information (SDI) Current Awareness of Information (CAS)	5
9	Reference Books	40
10	Old Question Papers	45

The above table clearly indicates that the most used service in the library is issuing of books. (65%), Around (45%), are using the OPAC system to find the required books in the library, old question papers are been used by the students which is 45 % followed by Xerox services (40%), Reference Books (40%), Even the online databases and e-resources are been used which is 15%), The other resources which are used are internet (20%), Newspaper clipping services (10%), Selected Dissemination of Information (SDI) Current Awareness of Information (5%), This shows that the library is been used and liked by the students.

Table - 4 Purpose of Information Seeking

Sr. No.	Purpose of Information Seeking	Students Response
1	Keep up with current developments	36
2	Academic requirements	69
3	Develop competence	10
4	Improve General Knowledge	32
5	Support Research	12
6	Workshop / Seminar Presentations	8
7	Writing book or article	2
8	Preparation for audio / video programmers	10

The main purpose of the library visit is for the academic requirements which is (69%), followed by current developments (36%), General Knowledge skill (32%), the other options are not been used much by the students. This table clearly indicates that student's main focus is on academics.

Table - 5 Problems in Seeking Information

Sl. No.	Problems in seeking information	Students Response
1	Materials are not available	05
2	Library staff are unwilling for service	10
3	Lack of time	12
4	Information material are old	11
5	Internet Speed	48
6	Books not arranged properly	21
7	Inadequate Library Staff	59
8	Less number of text books	30

As the above table indicates the main problems faced by students in their information seeking from the library is less number of library staff (59%), Speed of the internet in the library (48%), and less number of text books (30%), The other major problems are the speed of the internet in the library (48%), The other problems students indicated are Books not arranged properly (21%), Lack of time (12%), Information material is old (11%), Library staff is unwilling for service (10%), and Materials are not available (5%), This effects the use of e-resources in the library.

Table 6 - Use of E- Resources while Seeking Information

Sl. No.	Types of E - Resources	Students Response
1	E – Journals	25
2	E - Archives	2
3	E – Manuscripts	0
4	E – Books	40
5	Web Pages	24
6	E – Newspaper	20
7	E – Mail	16
8	Maps	10

The above chart shows that maximum students i.e. (40%), are using e-books for their information needs, while 25 % are using e-journals which is a good sign that students are moving towards digital content. The other e-resources which are used mainly are web pages (24%), Email facility (16%), E-Newspapers (20%), Maps (10%), E – Archives (2%). This table justifies students are slowly but definitely moving towards digital content.

Table - 7 Satisfaction Levels of Students with Library Facilities and Services

Sl. No.	Types of E – Resources	Students Response
1	Yes	82
2	No	18

(82%) of the students are happy with the facilities and services provided by the library. Only (18%) say that they are not satisfied with the library facilities.

CONCLUSION

Based on Information seeking behavior pattern of the students it is stated that most of the students are visiting in library daily or 2-3 in weeks, which is good news for any college library. The main problems faced by students is less number of staff in the library, the speed of internet, less number of text books and the old computer systems. The students wants orientation sessions to happen at least twice a year, at present it is happening only once during start of the academic year. This study also shows that students are steadily moving towards digital content which is a positive sign as the government is spending huge money to develop digital content. The main purpose of library visit is to fulfill their academic needs. Finally to conclude majority of the Students College of Agriculture Kalaburagi, (UASR) Karnataka are fully satisfied with the library resources and services provided to them by the college library.

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