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An Analysis of Information Seeking Pattern in Library in Tirunelveli District

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Abstract :

The present generation enjoys the abundance of information available in varieties of forms and formats. Searching and transferring of information have become an inseparable part of research and development. Computers are used to process , store, retrieve and disseminate information. Librarians have now metamorphosed into 'Digital Institutions'. Today, libraries are surrounded by networked data that is connected to vast ocean of Internet-based Services. The term 'Information Pattern' which deal a long range of formation related phenomena like seeking, searching, browsing etc.. Information is a new field of research as compared to seeking a solution to a specific problem in a field already familiar to a person. Information seeking pattern of a user may result from the recognition of his need of information. Thus the information is used largely by a wide cross section of people in the world resulting into the coining of new terms 'Information Explosion, Information Society, and Information Age etc..The electronic resources for their collection developments that the demands of users are better fulfilled. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of libraries. E-journals becoming a vital to carry any meaningful research. This resource is widely used by students and faculties and other users of the libraries to carry out day – to – day qualitative research, education and knowledge. This study reveals that the information seeking pattern in library in Tirunelvelidistrict used for the purpose of the easiest accessibility and its relativity.

Keywords:

Information Seeking, Information Pattern, E-resources, E-journals, Faculty members, Library.

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

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1.Introudction

Today with the advent of computers, the nature of Libraries has changeddramatically. Computers are being used in libraries to process, store, retrieve anddisseminate information. As a result, the traditional concept of library is being redefinedfrom a place to access books to one which houses the most advanced media includingCD-ROM, Internet access, and remote access to wide range of resources. Libraries havenow metamorphosed into “digital institutions”. Today, Libraries are surrounded by networked data that is connected to vast ocean of Internet-based services. Moreover,electronic resources relevant to the professions are being developed at an unprecedentedpace.

Wilson defines, information pattern as “the totality of human pattern in relation to sources and channels of information, including both active and passive information seeking, and information use. Thus, it includes face-to-face communication with others, as well as the passive reception of information as in, for example, watching TV advertisements, without any intention to acton the information given.” Information pattern a term which deals a long range ofinformation related phenomena like seeking, searching, browsing etc.

According to Wright and Guy, Information seeking is undertaken to identify amessage that satisfies a perceived need of users. Ikoja–Odongo stated that this activitymay be defined as actively or passively done when taking steps to satisfy a felt need. Anumber of researches on ‘information seeking’ have been conducted to identify howindividuals go about finding the sources that they need in order to satisfy theirinformation needs. These researches resulted explained by a number of models likeEllis’s model (1993), Wilson's model (1981, 1986, 1999), and Kuhlthaus’s model (1992).These models are based on a number of steps that can be followed in seeking informationor to explain how most relevant information can be sought systematically.

1.1 Information Seeking Pattern

David Ellis (1993) investigated the information seeking patterns of academicresearchers, Social Scientists, and Natural Scientists. He also studied the informationseeking of researchers in English literature. He found six main categories among theResearchers in English literature. Further, it has been classified the information seekingof research into six main categories among the researchers in English literature: they areStarting, Chaining , Differentiating, Extracting, Verifying and Ending

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1.2 Electronic Resources

An electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires computer access orany electronic product that delivers a collection of data, being text referring to full textbases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with anaim of being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tapes, via internet andso on. Over the past few years, a numbers of techniques and related standards have beendeveloped which allow documents to be created anddistributed in electric form. Hence tocope with the present situation, Libraries are shifting towards new media, namelyelectronic resources for their collection developments that the demands of users are betterfulfilled. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on thecollections of University Libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities formanipulation and searching, providing information access is cheaper to acquiringinformation resources, savings in storage and maintenance etc. and sometimes theelectronic form is the only alternative.

1.3 Electronic Journals

Electronic Journals are very important source for the scientific research anddevelopment. E-journal is becoming vital to carry any meaning full research. Thisresource is widely used by Student and Faculty and other users of the libraries to carryout day-to-day qualitative research, education and knowledge

1.4 .Scope of the Study

The scope of the present study is that information seeking pattern in library in Tirunelveli District. The seekingpattern of information is at various level of institutions. Today, Electronics resource is an essential part ofthe students and teachers. Now-a-days, technology plays a significant role in the world.With technology one can achieve more. E-resources to improve the standard of learningand to educate them to handle the technology for various purposes.

1.5. Objectives of the Study

1.to study the purpose of use of the library for relevant references**.**

2.to study the information seeking pattern on library level

3.to study the problems facing in information seeking pattern

4.to give appropriate suggestions and recommendations.

1.6.Statement of the Problem

The role of the use of electronic resources in higher education is enormous andgrowing rapidly that it can hardly be sketched in a brief study. The faculties of colleges are

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extensively using the E-resources.Libraries have undergone considerable changes in the past two decades. With theincreasing use of technology to organize and disseminate information, and the computerhas become an important tool for accessing information. Libraries have to provide thetechnology necessary for user access to scholarly Information and CommunicationTechnology (ICT) resources and a growing number of electronic databases. The physicalspace in libraries has been modified to accommodate the additional technology necessaryto provide users with the tools to use Library resources successfully to meet theirinformation needs. The Libraries' and Librarians' roles have been changed rapidly in therecent years, in response to new forms of information and new methods of learning andresearch.

1.7. Review of the Study

Information Seeking

Krikelas (1983) motivated that the information seeking as "any activity of anindividual that is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived need.Information seeking begins when someone perceives that the current state of processedknowledge is less than that needed to deal with some issue (or problem). The processends when that perception no longer exists".

According to Wilson (2000) "information seeking is the purposive seeking forinformation as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal. In the course of seeking theindividual may interact with manual information systems (such as a newspaper or alibrary), or with computer-based systems (such as World Wide Web)".

Information seeking, for the present study, means the process of searching andgathering information and information resources for meeting the academic informationneeds related to the learning, teaching and research activities of the population understudy.

Information Pattern

In the present study, by the term 'Pattern', the researcher means the ways throughwhich the population under study deals with different information intermediaries,sources, systems and services and their pattern during this process.

Adekunmisi et al., (2013) followed by a study on "Internet Access and Usage by Undergraduate Students: A Case Study of OlabisiOnabanjo University, Nigeria." It is anuse of Information and Communication Technologies and its importance role in education. Most of the lectures using the Internet are student review process of 200questionnaires. They conclude that the majority of the respondents are using the internet were reviewing (32.50%),

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37.50 % were weekly, fortnightly (13%) and monthly (17%). The result shows that the E-mails, Web-Pages, search engines and chatting facilities for communication and academic activities.

1.8. Sampling Design

Sample for the present study consists of 560 faculty members belonging to thediscipline of colleges in Tirunelveli District . Respondents were selected byusing 'random sampling' technique by giving equal weightage to discipline, type ofinstitutions and gender. Thus, the total sample for the present study consists of 560respondents.

2. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The method of comparing means of the various groups is called the analysis ofvariance (ANOVA). It compares the variability of the sample means about the overallmean to the variability of the sample observations about their separate means. The teststatistics is the ratio of two estimates of the population variance,λ2, of the measurementsin the group. One of the two estimates uses the variability between, and within eachsample. This estimate is called within group estimate of variance or simply withinestimate. The other estimate uses the variability between each sample means and theoverall sample mean, which is known as between-group estimate of the variance orsimply between estimate. If Ho is true, the between estimate tends to be equal to withinestimate, apart from sampling error. Within Sum of Squares (WSS) and Between Sum ofSquares (BSS) and the respective estimates of variances are given below:

$$WSS = \sum \left(Y_{ij}^{\cdot} - \bar{Y}_j \right)^2$$

$$BSS = \sum \left(Y_i - \bar{Y} \right)^2$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_w^2 = \frac{\sum (n_{j-1}) sj^2}{N\text{-}g}$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_B^2 = \frac{\sum n_j \left(Y_j - Y \right)^2}{g\text{-}1}$$

where,

Y_{ij} -are the individual values of the sample, Yj- mean of the jth sample

Y - mean of the items by pooling all the samples, I - 1 to n j ; j = 1 to g ; □ □ n j = N

(N-g) - within group degrees of freedom, (g-1) - between group degrees of freedom

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g - total number of samples

$$sj^2 - \quad \sum \left(Y_{ij} - \bar{Y}_j\right)^2.$$

$$n\left(n_j - 1\right)$$

This study analyses the information seeking pattern of the faculties in colleges. The independent variables are correlated with frequency of visit, time spent,usage of online public access catalogue (OPAC) and e-resources. This study gives orientation and effective utilization of libraries.

2.1 Information Seeking Pattern of Faculty Members according Gender

Table: 1

Designation	**No. of Respondents**		**Total**
	Male	**Female**	
Professor	43 (75.44)	14 (24.56)	**57 (100.00)**
Associate Professor	62 (62.63)	37 (37.37)	**99 (100.00)**
Assistant Professor	278 (68.82)	126 (31.18)	**404 (100.00)**
Total	383 (68.40)	177 (31.60)	**560 (100.00)**

Source: Field survey

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total

Table.1 shows the faculty members information seeking pattern according to gender. Out of 560 respondents, 68.40 per cent of the male faculty members are in the top most level followed by female at 31.60 per cent.

2.2.ANOVA among the Mean Scores of the Information Seeking Pattern of Faculty Members of Engineering Colleges

ANOVA test was employed to examine thatthere is significant difference between gender and Information seeking pattern of faculty members of Colleges in Tirunelveli District.

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Table: 2

Source of Variance	**Sum of Squares**	**Degrees of Freedom**	**Mean of Squares**	**F-value**	**Sig.**	**Result**
Between	775.849	2	387.925	21.033	000	No Significance
Within	10273.035	557	18.444			
Total	11048.884	559				

Table value required for df 2 and 557 at 5% level of significance is 2.99

The table: 2reveals that the calculated 'F' value is greater than the table value 2.99at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, there issignificant difference between gender and information seekingpattern of faculty members of Colleges in Tirunelveli District.

2.3.Difference between Faculty Members and Department

Table :3

Designation	**Department Wise**									**Total**
	EEE	**ECE**	**MECH**	**CIVIL**	**CSE**	**SAH**	**MBA**	**MCA**	**OTHERS**	
Professor	10 (17.54)	5 (8.77)	5 (8.77)	10 (17.54)	10 (17.54)	9 (15.78)	3 (5.26)	1 (1.75)	4 (7.01)	57 (100.00)
AssociateProfessor	13 (13.13)	17 (17.17)	11 (11.11)	16 (16.16)	13 (13.13)	17 (17.17)	5 (5.05)	3 (3.03)	4 (4.04)	99 (100.00)
Assistant Professor	57 (14.10)	56 (13.86)	62 (15.34)	45 (11.13)	46 (11.38)	85 (21.03)	23 (5.69)	11 (2.72)	19 (4.70)	404 (100.00)
Total	**80 (14.28)**	**78 (13.92)**	**78 (13.92)**	**71 (12.67)**	**69 (12.32**	**111 (19.82)**	**31 (5.53)**	**15 (2.67)**	**27 (4.82)**	**560 (100.00)**

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Source: Filed Survey
Note: Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total (Row-wise)

Table: 3 explains the difference between faculty members and department incolleges in Tirunelveli district. Out of560 respondents, 19.83 per cent of the faculty members in science and humanities are in the top most level followed by the faculty members in electrical electronics engineering at 14.28per cent, the faculty members in electronics and communication engineering and the faculty members in mechanical engineering at 13.92per cent, the faculty members in civil engineering at 12.67 per cent, the faculty members in computer science and engineering at 12.32 per cent,the faculty members in MBA at 5.53 per cent, others at 4.82 per cent and the faculty members inMCA at 2.67 per cent.

2.4.Faculty Members with regard to Library Visit

Table : 4

Designation	**Visit the Library**						**Total**
	Daily	**Twice a day**	**Thrice a day**	**Weekly**	**Monthly**	**Rarely**	
Professor	9 (15.78)	12 (21.05)	15 (26.31)	4 (7.01)	9 (15.78)	8 (14.03)	57 100.00
Associate Professor	23 (23.23)	19 (19.19)	16 (16.16)	10 (10.10)	25 (25.25)	6 (6.06)	99 (100.00)
Assistant Professor	96 (23.76)	62 (15.34)	99 (24.50)	60 (14.85)	42 (10.39)	45 (11.13)	404 **(1**00.00)

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Total	**128 (22.85)**	**93 (16.60)**	**130 (23.21)**	**74 (13.21)**	**76 (13.57)**	**59 (10.53)**	**560 (100.00)**

Source: Filed Survey
Note: Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total (Row-wise)

The table :4 explains the faculty members and visit the library of colleges in Tirunelveli district. Out of 560 respondents, 23.21 per cent of the faculty members visited thrice a day. Followed by 22.85 per cent of the faculty members visited daily, 16.60 per cent of the faculty members visited twice a day and 13.21 per cent of the faculty members visited weekly and rarely faculty members library visit at 10.53 per cent.

2.5Faculty Members with regard to Use of OPAC

Table: 5

S. No.	Designation	Use of OPAC		Total
		Yes	No	
1	Professor	44 (77.19)	13 (22.80)	57 (100.00)
2	Associate Professor	67 (67.67)	32 (32.32)	99 (17.67)
3	Assistant Professor	298 (73.76)	106 (26.237)	404 (72.14)
TOTAL		409 (73.03)	151 (26.96)	560 (100.00)

Source: Filed Survey

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total (Row-wise)

Table.5 reveals that the difference between faculty members and use of OPAC.Out of 560 respondents, 73.03 per cent of the faculty members are used OPAC in thelibrary and followed by 26.97 per cent of faculty members did not use OPAC in theLibrary.

2.6 Faculty Members and Information Seeking Pattern in the Use of Library in OPAC

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Table : 6

Designation	**Information Seeking Pattern use the Library OPAC**						**Total**
	Author	**Keyword**	**Subject**	**Title**	**ISBN Number**	**Publisher**	
Professor	4 (7.01)	10 (17.54)	12 (21.05)	16 (28.07)	13 (22.80)	2 (3.50)	57 (10.17)
Associate Professor	41 (41.41)	9 (9.09)	3 (3.03)	17 (17.17)	15 (15.15)	14 (14.14)	99 (17.67)
Assistant Professor	78 (19.30)	29 (7.17)	40 (9.90)	83 (20.54)	62 (15.34)	112 (27.72)	404 (72.14)
Total	123 (21.96)	48 (8.57)	55 (9.82)	116 (20.71)	90 (16.07)	128 (22.85)	560 100

Source: Filed Survey

Table:6 reveals the difference between the faculty members and informationseeking pattern in the use of library in OPAC. Out of 560 respondents, 22.85 per cent ofthe faculty members used OPAC for the information seeking pattern in the use of library“Publishers” are more and “Author” at 21.96 per cent, Title at 20.71 per cent, ISBNNumber at 16.07 per cent, and Subject at 9.82 per cent and Keywords at 8.57 per centrespectively.

It is clearly seen from the above analysis that in all the categories of Professors,Associate Professors and Assistant Professors of the faculty members were informationseeking pattern, in the Library use in OPAC, “Publishers” are seen more whereas use in”Keywords” are less.

3. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

1. The study reveals the gender of the faculty member, male at 68.40 per cent andfemale at 31.60 per cent.
2. The findings of the study related to the distribution of name of the institutionaccording to faculty members designation, Assistant professor at 72.16 per centfollowed by Associate Professors at 17.67 per cent and Professors at 10.17 percent is found less.
3. The study reveals that the faculty members name of the institution according todepartment, science and humanities faculties are at top most level 19.82 per centand

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followed by electrical and electronics engineering faculties 14.28 per cent, electronicsand communication engineering faculties and mechanical engineering faculties13.92 per cent, civilengineering faculties 12.68 per cent, computer science and engineering faculties (12.32%), MBA faculties (5.53%) and others (4.82%) and MCA faculties are less.

4. From the survey, 43.21 per cent of the respondents educational qualification wiseM.E (43.21%) followed by Ph.D. 37.14 per cent, M.Phil. 9.46 Per cent, M.Sc7.67 per cent and others are 2.50 per cent.
5. The findings of the study related to the faculty members according to experience,5-10 years is 34.28 per cent and followed by 10-15 years 26.07 per cent, 5 years 25.35 per cent, 15-20 years 9.10 per cent and 20 years 5.17 per cent.
6. ANOVA test was employed to examine that there is significant difference between gender and information seeking behaviour offaculty members of colleges in Tirunelveli district.
7. From the survey, the faculty members with regard to use of OPAC out of 560respondents, “use of OPAC” in the library at 73.03 per cent followed by “not useof OPAC” at 26.97 per cent.
8. The study reveals that the calculated ‘F’ value is greater than table value 2.99 at0.05 level of significance. Hence, there is significantdifference between gender and information seeking behaviour of faculty members of colleges in Tirunelveli district.
9. The study shows that the faculty members and information seeking pattern in theuse of library OPAC “Publishers” (22.85%) followed by “Author” (21.96%),“Title” (20.71%), “ISBN number” (16.07%) , “Subject” (9.82%) and“Keywords” 8.57 per cent. .
10 .From the survey, 100 per cent in books circulation in the library which is at thetop most level.
11 The findings of the study related to the faculty members with regard to use of bound volumes are at the top most level at 86.42 per cent followed by not used inback volumes at 13.587 per which is less.
12. From this survey the faculty members with regard to use of online resources are at the top most level at 75 per cent and followed by not use of online resources at 25 per cent.

Suggestions

- The number of more institutions may be increased.
- Most of the faculty sought separate building for library.

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- The affiliated university faculty shall be recommended for the procurement of digitized resources and
- More financial assistance shall be extended for the implementation of training programmes to college faculty.
- The electronic resources as well as the digital resources are more important for the

academic and research activities hence, efforts should be made to develop and extract the access modes to the end users.

Conclusion

This study promotes the records of human knowledge and keep them up to date inaccordance with the growing needs and requirements of today and tomorrow. Further , it reminds faculty members of the various opportunities for using libraryresources in teaching and also to facilitate an individual and a group of readers in the use of library resources with practical demonstration on how to seek the information, to provide necessary resources for staff and students and to assist teaching staff in organizing the synthetic methods of teachings. Finally, this study reveals that the documents to the notice of students and the academics together underenvironments which stimulate reading for pleasure, self-realization, personalgrowth and development, and the cultivation of intellectual excellence forentertainment. The university libraries have adopted all the new Information and Communication technologies and electronic resources are efficiently used by the academic faculties. Mostof the institutions are provided with the advanced technologies in the departments whichmake the effective teaching and research usage. Now, the government has initiatives totake several steps to improve the digital library infrastructure. The information seekingpattern in library in Tirunelveli district used for the purpose of the easiest accessibility and its relevancy.

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