

Information Gathering Behaviour of College Students with Special Reference to Aided Colleges Affiliated to M. G. University, Kerala.

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***Abstracts** - This paper discusses about the information gathering habits among the students in select aided colleges in Kerala. The relevant data collected from the select aided colleges afflicted to M. G. University in Kerala. It found that Male respondents, 223(20.88%) were accessed in 'Central library', 114(10.67%) were accessed in 'Dept. library', 52(4.87%) were accessed in 'Public library', 86(8.05%) were accessed in 'Personal collections' for information gathering activities. In Female, 40(3.75%) were accessed in 'Public library', 34(3.18%) were accessed in 'Personal collections', 74(6.93%) were accessed in 'College computer centre', 56(5.24%) were accessed in 'Cyber cafe' and 26(2.43%) were accessed in 'Personal computer' for gathering information activities*

Keywords: Information Access; information Gathering Behaviour; students; select aided colleges.

Information

There are enormous information resources available as on today especially in the digital environment. Information seeking behaviour and information needs are the fundamental areas of research in the digital environment. In higher education systems, there is a provision for making use of these resources available through library. It is necessary for the libraries to move towards digital resources which are more helpful for easy access. The following definitions apply in this study are either defined operationally or adapted from established definitions from authoritative sources. The Chen and Hernon (1982)¹ all knowledge, ideas, facts, data and imaginative works of mind which are communicated formally and/or informally in any format". From the above definition it can be inferred that Information is a stimulus that consists of all knowledge; ideas; facts; data and imaginative works of mind which reduces uncertainty that makes a difference to a conscious of human mind as a purely quantitative measure of communicative exchanges, in a formal and/or informal format that are amenable for the user in an environment. Wilson (1968)² stated the view that information need motivates. Information behaviour is an embedded assumption of the user oriented paradigm which focuses upon what people think, do and feel when they seek and use information.

Review of Literature

Chandrashekara et. al., (2016)³. reveals that the library services in the VTU research center libraries is effective enough for their users. VTU research center libraries users were also effective with the existing printed journals, books, e-journals, thesis/dissertations/project resource, conference/workshop/seminars proceedings resources, abstracts, indexing resources. These resources found to be around 50% effective and government publications, patents/standards resources, CD ROM database resources are ineffective in library services.

Pradhan, B. (2017)⁴ investigated of print and electronic information seeking behavior of dental students of Institute of Dental Sciences, SOA University. Information seeking behavior has gained momentum, especially after the radical change in the type of information Medias and the way access to them in various forms such as video, textual, audio and numerical information and is processed through the use of microelectronics and computers provided through internet. The study does not investigate the information seeking behavior of the dental student community as a whole. The results shows that most of the students of MDS and BDS seek information for preparing their class work, project work, for updating knowledge, for preparation of examination.

Kaur, K., Kathuria, K. (2017)⁵ attempts to know the awareness and use of Information Communication Technology and the problems associated with its use in the university library. The findings of the study revealed that large number of the respondents were aware of ICTs use in the library. The internet was most extensively used for accessing e-journals followed by e-mail. Also, respondents preferred to access information both in print as well as in electronic formats.

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are as under:

- To identify the gender and domicile wise distribution of the respondents.
- To study approach of access to gather information
- To identify the information gathering activities

Methodology

This study attempts to report the findings of the Information Gathering Behaviour of College Students with Special Reference to Aided Colleges Affiliated to M. G. University, Kerala. The primary data was collected through questionnaires from the respondents. The data related the libraries directly collected from the Library professionals. Since this is a time-bound study at the state level, necessary mathematical and statistical methods and tools are applied.

Data Analysis

The Distribution of Questionnaires among the respondents from the aided colleges of four districts with special reference to M. G. University, Kerala has been analyzed based on the opinions and it is shown in the table.1

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaires among the Respondents

| Sl. No | Questionnaires Distributed | % | Questionnaires Received | % |
|--------|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | 1200 | 100 | 1068 | 89.00 |

Table 1 shows the distribution of questionnaires to the respondents from the aided colleges. Totally 1200 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents of Aided Colleges in three districts in Kerala. Out of 1200, 1068 replied after duly filled by the respondents. The response rate is 89.00%.

Table 2: Demographic Details of the Respondents

| Demographic Details | | Questionnaire Distributed | Questionnaire Received |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Gender | Male | 700 | 611 |
| | Female | 500 | 457 |
| Student | UG | 725 | 625 |
| | PG | 475 | 443 |
| Domicile | Urban | 650 | 594 |
| | Rural | 550 | 474 |
| Total | | 1200 | 1068 |

From the table 2 shows Gender wise distribution of questionnaire to the respondents of aided colleges of four districts. Out of 1200, 1068 replied after duly filled by the respondents which comprises 611(50.92%) were from male respondents and 457(38.08%) were from female respondents. Among the 1200, 725 of the questionnaires were distributed to Under Graduate students (U.G), 475 of them were distributed to Post Graduate students (P.G). From the 1200, 625 were filled and returned by the Under Graduate students (U.G) and 443 were returned by the P.G. (Post Graduate) students. It is studied from the table the highest numbers of respondents were in the category of 'Under Graduate students (U.G)'. Among the 1200, 650 of the questionnaires were distributed to the students those were living in Urban, 550 of them were distributed to the students those were living in Rural. From the 1200, 594 were filled and returned by the students in urban areas and 474 were returned by the students in rural areas. It is studied from the table the highest numbers of respondents were in the Urban'.

The Approach of access to gather information

The Approach of access to gather information among the Aided college students has been analysed based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 3.

Table 3: The Approach of access to gather information

| Description | Gender | | Student | | Domicile | | Total |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Male | Female | UG | PG | Urban | Rural | |
| Library | 123 (11.52) | 127 (11.89) | 165 (15.45) | 85 (7.96) | 151 (14.14) | 99 (9.27) | 250 (23.41) |
| Internet | 386 (36.14) | 273 (25.56) | 365 (34.18) | 294 (27.53) | 372 (34.83) | 287 (26.87) | 659 (61.7) |
| Personal | 102 (9.55) | 57 (5.34) | 95 (8.9) | 64 (5.99) | 71 (6.65) | 88 (8.24) | 159 (14.89) |
| Total | 611 (57.21) | 457 (42.79) | 625 (58.52) | 443 (41.48) | 594 (55.62) | 474 (44.38) | 1068 (100) |

(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)

It is revealed from the table 3 shows that the approach of access to gather information with their category of the Gender. The approach of access to gather information was categories as follows: 'Library', 'Internet' and 'Personal'. From the category of Male respondents, 123(11.52%) were approach 'Library', 386(36.14%) were approach 'Internet' and 102(9.55%) were approach 'Personal' to gather information. In Female, 127(11.89%) were approach 'Library', 273(25.56%) were approach 'Internet', 57(5.34%) were approach 'Personal' to gather information. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 386(36.14%) were approach 'Internet' access to gather information.

Followed by, the approach of access to gather information analyzed with their category of the students. From the 625(58.52%) of the respondents in the category of UG, 165(15.45%) were approach 'Library', 365(34.18%) of them were approach 'Internet', 95(8.9%) were approach 'Personal' access to gather information. 443(41.48%) of the respondents in the category of PG, 85(7.96%) of them were approach 'Library', 294(27.53%) were approach 'Internet', 64(5.99%) were approach 'personal' access to gather information. It is identified from the table the highest numbers of respondents were in the category of UG 365(34.18%) were approach 'Internet' access to gather information.

Further, the approach of access to gather information has been analyzed with their category of the domicile. In the category of Urban, 151(14.14%) of the respondents were approach 'Library', 372(34.83%) of them were approach 'Internet', 71(6.65%) were approach 'personal' access to gather information. In the category of Rural, 99(9.27%) of them were approach 'Library', 287(26.87%) were approach 'Internet', 88(8.24%) were approach 'personal' access to gather information. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Urban 372(34.83%) were approach 'Internet' access to gather information.

Place of access for Information gathering activities

The Place of access for Information gathering activities among the Aided college students has been analysed based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 4.

Table 4: Place of access of Information gathering activities

| Place | Gender | | student | | Domicile | | Total |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Male | Female | UG | PG | Urban | Rural | |
| Central library | 223 (20.88) | 173 (16.2) | 215 (20.13) | 181 (16.95) | 203 (19.01) | 193 (18.07) | 396 (37.08) |
| Dept. library | 114 (10.67) | 54 (5.06) | 120 (11.24) | 48 (4.49) | 62 (5.81) | 106 (9.93) | 168 (15.73) |
| Public library | 52 (4.87) | 40 (3.75) | 56 (5.24) | 36 (3.37) | 63 (5.9) | 29 (2.72) | 92 (8.61) |
| Personal collections | 86 (8.05) | 34 (3.18) | 90 (8.43) | 30 (2.81) | 69 (6.46) | 51 (4.78) | 120 (11.24) |
| College computer centre | 56 (5.24) | 74 (6.93) | 86 (8.05) | 44 (4.12) | 76 (7.12) | 54 (5.06) | 130 (12.17) |
| Cyber cafe | 42 (3.93) | 56 (5.24) | 18 (1.69) | 80 (7.49) | 59 (5.52) | 39 (3.65) | 98 (9.18) |
| Personal computer | 38 (3.56) | 26 (2.43) | 40 (3.75) | 24 (2.25) | 62 (5.81) | 2 (0.19) | 64 (5.99) |
| Total | 611 (57.21) | 457 (42.79) | 625 (58.52) | 443 (41.48) | 594 (55.62) | 474 (44.38) | 1068 (100) |

(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)

It is revealed from the table 4 shows that the place of access to gather information with their category of the Gender. The place of access to gather information was categories as follows: 'Central library', 'Dept. library', 'Public library', 'Personal collections', 'College computer centre', 'Cyber cafe' and 'Personal computer'. From the category of Male respondents, 223(20.88%) were accessed in 'Central library', 114(10.67%) were accessed in 'Dept. library', 52(4.87%) were accessed in 'Public library', 86(8.05%) were accessed in 'Personal collections' for information gathering activities. In Female, 40(3.75%) were accessed in 'Public library', 34(3.18%) were accessed in 'Personal collections', 74(6.93%) were accessed in 'College computer centre', 56(5.24%) were accessed in 'Cyber cafe' and 26(2.43%) were accessed in 'Personal computer' for gathering information activities. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 223(20.88%) were accessed in 'Internet' for information gathering activities.

Followed by, the place of access to gather information analyzed with their category of the students. From the 625(58.52%) of the respondents in the category of UG, 215(20.13%) were accessed in 'Central library', 120(11.24%) of them were accessed in 'Dept.library', 56(5.24%) were accessed in 'public library', 90(8.43%) were accessed in 'Personal collection' for gathering information activities. 443(41.48%) of the respondents in the category of PG, 85(7.96%) of them were accessed in 'Library', 294(27.53%) were accessed in 'Internet', 30(2.81%) were accessed in 'persona collections', 44(4.12%) were accessed in 'College computer centre', 80(7.49%) were accessed in 'Cybercafe' and 24(2.25%) were accessed in 'Personal computer' for information gathering activities. It is identified from the table the highest numbers of respondents were in the category of UG 215(20.13%) were accessed in 'central library' for gathering information activities.

Further, the place of access to gather information has been analyzed with their category of the domicile. In the category of Urban, 203(19.01%) of the respondents were accessed in 'Central library', 62(5.81%) of them were accessed in 'Dept. library', 63(5.9%) were accessed in 'Public library' and 69(6.46%) were accessed in 'Personal collections' for information gathering activities. In the category of Rural, 51(4.78%) of them were accessed in 'Personal collections', 54(5.06%) were accessed in 'College computer centre', 39(3.65%) were accessed in 'Cybercafé' and 2(0.19%) were accessed in 'Personal computer' for information gathering activities. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Urban 203(19.01%) were accessed in 'Central library' for information gathering activities.

Place for information gathering per week

The study has been analyses the Time spent for information gathering per week by the aided college students. The three point scales of Less than 2 hrs, 2-5 hrs and more than 5 hrs were used for the study. The Mean, Standard Deviation and their Rank for Time spent for information gathering per week to gather Information have been calculated and it is shown in the table 5.

Table 5: Time spent for information gathering per week

| Place | Less than 2 hrs | 2-5 hrs | More than 5 hrs | M | Std. Dev | Rank |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------|----------|------|
| Library | 29 (2.69) | 278 (25.79) | 761 (70.59) | 2.69 | .520 | 2 |
| Internet | 75 (6.96) | 167 (15.49) | 826 (76.62) | 2.70 | .591 | 1 |
| Personal | 120 (11.13) | 171 (15.86) | 777 (72.08) | 2.62 | .680 | 3 |

It is identified from Table 5 that the respondents have given first priority for the place of 'Internet' to gather information. 'Library' is the second preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the place of 'personal'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 2.62 and 2.70. It can be inferred that all the five variables lies on the time frequency of 'More than 5 hours' to spent for information gathering activities.

Time spent for information gathering per week Vs Gender

The study has been further extended to Gender category for the Time spent to gather information gathering per week by the respondents. The Mean, Standard Deviation and their Rank for Time spent for information gathering per week have been calculated and it is shown in the table 6.

Table 6: Time spent for information gathering per week Vs Gender

| Place | Male | | | Female | | | Chi-Square |
|----------|------|------|---|--------|------|---|------------|
| | M | SD | R | M | SD | R | |
| Library | 2.65 | .544 | 2 | 2.73 | .483 | 1 | 5.770 |
| Internet | 2.69 | .596 | 1 | 2.72 | .585 | 2 | 1.644 |
| Personal | 2.59 | .706 | 3 | 2.65 | .643 | 3 | 3.485 |

(M-Mean, SD-Standard Deviation, R-Rank, Degrees of Freedom: 2, Table Value: 5.991)

It can be inferred from Table 6 that the Male respondents have given first priority for the place of 'Internet' to gather information. 'Library' is the second preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the place of 'Personal'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 2.59 and 2.69. It can be inferred that all the five variables lies on the time frequency 'More than 5 hours' to spent for information gathering activities. In the case of Female, that the respondents have given first priority for the place of 'Library' to gather information. 'Internet' is the second preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the place of 'Personal'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 2.65 and 2.73. It can be inferred that all the five variables lies on the time frequency of 'More than 5 hours' to spent for information gathering activities.

Further, Chi square has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 6. The table value is 5.991 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value of all the were lower than the table value which indicated the variables are not significant in their opinion between the Gender categories of male and female towards the time spent to gather the information.

Time spent for information gathering per week Vs Student

The study has been further extended to Student category for the Time spent to gather information per week by the respondents. The Mean, Standard Deviation and their Rank for Time spent for information gathering per week have been calculated and it is shown in the table 7.

Table 7: Time spent for information gathering per week Vs Student

| Place | UG | | | PG | | | Chi-Square |
|----------|------|------|---|------|------|---|------------|
| | M | SD | R | M | SD | R | |
| Library | 2.68 | .524 | 2 | 2.70 | .515 | 1 | .808 |
| Internet | 2.74 | .538 | 1 | 2.65 | .656 | 2 | 11.654 |
| Personal | 2.63 | .660 | 3 | 2.60 | .706 | 3 | 2.949 |

(M-Mean, SD-Standard Deviation, R-Rank, Degrees of Freedom: 2, Table Value: 5.991)

It can be seen from table 7 that the respondents in the category of UG have given first priority for the place of ‘Internet’ to gather information. ‘Library’ is the second preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the place of ‘Personal’. It can be inferred that all the five variables lies on time frequency of ‘More than 5 hours’ to spent for information gathering activities. In the category of PG, the respondents have given first priority for the place of ‘Library’ to gather information. ‘Internet’ is the second preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the place of ‘Personal’. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 2.60 and 2.70. It can be inferred that all the five variables lies on time frequency of ‘More than 5 hours’ to spent for information gathering activities.

Further, Chi square has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 7. The table value is 5.991 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value for most of the variables were lower than the table value which indicated the variables are not significant in their opinion between the student categories of UG and PG towards the time spent per week to gather the information except the variable of ‘Internet’.

Time spent for information gathering per week Vs Domicile

The study has been further extended to Domicile category for the Time spent to gather information per week by the respondents. The Mean, Standard Deviation and their Rank for Time spent for information gathering per week have been calculated and it is shown in the table 8.

Table 8: Time spent for information gathering per week Vs Domicile

| Place | Urban | | | Rural | | | Chi-Square |
|----------|-------|------|---|-------|------|---|------------|
| | M | SD | R | M | SD | R | |
| Library | 2.69 | .530 | 2 | 2.68 | .507 | 1 | 4.380 |
| Internet | 2.74 | .553 | 1 | 2.65 | .633 | 2 | 6.478 |
| Personal | 2.60 | .676 | 3 | 2.64 | .684 | 3 | 7.140 |

(M-Mean, SD-Standard Deviation, R-Rank, Degrees of Freedom: 2, Table Value: 5.991)

It can be identified from table 4.20 that the respondents in Urban have given first priority for the place of ‘Internet’ to gather information. ‘Library’ is the second preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the place of ‘Personal’. It can be inferred that all the five variables lies on time frequency of ‘More than 5 hours’ to spent for information gathering activities. In the case of Rural, the respondents have given first priority for the place of ‘Library’ to gather information. ‘Internet’ is the second preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the place of ‘Personal’. It can be inferred that all the five variables lies on time frequency of ‘More than 5 hours’ to spent for information gathering activities. Further, Chi square has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 8. The table value is 5.991 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value for most of the variables were higher than the table value which indicated the variables are highly significant in their opinion between the Domicile category of Rural and Urban towards the time spent to gather the information except the variable of ‘Library’.

Findings

- Among the 1200, 725 of the questionnaires were distributed to Under Graduate students (U.G), 475 of them were distributed to Post Graduate students (P.G).
- The highest numbers of respondents were in the category of Male 386(36.14%) were approach 'Internet' access to gather information.
- The highest numbers of respondents were in the category of UG 365(34.18%) were approach 'Internet' access to gather information.
- Respondents have given first priority for the place of 'Internet' to gather information. 'Library' is the second preference given by the respondents
- PG students have given first priority for the place of 'Library' to gather information

Conclusion

This study concludes the findings of the Information Gathering Behaviour of College Students with Special Reference to Aided Colleges Affiliated to M. G. University, Kerala. The student's community always depends upon the library resources to their academic development. The Information is a stimulus that consists of all knowledge; ideas; facts; data and imaginative works of mind. It reduces uncertainty that makes a difference to a conscious of not only the human mind but their individual development. This is a purely quantitative measure of communicative exchanges, in a formal and/or informal information gathering by the user in an academic environment.

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