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# Information Seeking behaviour of University Teachers: A study at selected Universities in undivided Andhra Pradesh

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## Introduction

Eminent Philosophers and thinkers share the view that the quality of a university is reflected, in direct proportion, in the quality of its teachers. Laski (1957) once observed, "The true epochs in a university's life are not marked by its buildings, its books or even the growth of its numbers. – They are marked by the great teachers it has possessed."

The role of a teacher in the university is obviously an important one. The basic functions of a University teacher are teaching, research, and extension for which information is the main commodity. To perform these three activities effectively, a University teacher has to keep himself abreast of the latest trends and developments in his and also related fields. On him rests the responsibilities of not only acquiring new knowledge but also disseminate it to younger generations. New knowledge is generated by research. Therefore, it is necessary that teachers keep themselves abreast of new developments. The goal of university is to promote research, training and dissemination of knowledge. University teachers need to not only teach, but also do research and disseminate knowledge to the common man.

Information plays a key role in economic, social and cultural realms of the society. It is very important in speedily transforming society and a vital resource and input in the overall development and growth of a country. The supply of correct and reliable information at the right time to the right person helps in minimizing wastage of resources and avoids duplication of work. It is regarded as resource of resource. Information plays a vital role in:

a) Growth of knowledge and wisdom
b) Research and innovation
c) Development and design
d) Production and Marketing
e) Decision Making and Management
f) Education and Training.

## Information needs of academicians:

There may be academicians engaged in teaching and research activities or they may be involved in research and development activities in an industrial setting.

Voigt (1977) says that "scientists refer to information sources mainly in three circumstances".

- While getting current awareness of results both in their particular narrow field and the related disciplines
- In their day-to-day work, when they need some factual information figures, methods and designs and

- When embarking on a new problem or a project, as well as when completing it and writing about it – a retrospective search to identify as many published and unpublished sources on the subject as possible.

**Aim and Objective of the Study:**

The present study is aimed to study the information seeking behaviour of the university teachers and the key objectives of the present study are:

- To study the level of dependency in seeking information from various institutions/associations
- To assess the level of use of information by the faculty in Teaching, Research and extension activities etc.

**Universe of the study and Methodology:**

The State of undivided Andhra Pradesh is geographically divided into three regions viz. Rayalaseema, Circar and Telangana. Three Universities, one from each region i.e. Sri Venkateswara university, Tirupati (Rayalaseema); Andhra university, Visakapatnam (Circar) and Osmania university, Hyderabad (Telangana) which are old and well established, have been selected by the investigator for the present study. The faculty members of these universities consist of Arts, Sciences and Engineering and Technology. Due to the constraints of time and money the present work is restricted to study the faculty of Arts and Sciences only who are working within the campus.

**Sample Selection:** Since, the population is large to study in view of time and cost involved; a sample of 500 (48.50% of total population) faculty members has been drawn from the total population by simple stratified random method.

The structured questionnaires were distributed to collect data from the sample, i.e. university teachers. However, the investigator received responses from 312 (62.4% of the sample) respondents:

**Analysis of data and findings:**

In this paper the data relating to information seeking behaviour of university teachers is presented and analysed. The university teacher seeks information through maintaining personal library (contains books periodicals, reference books etc.), receiving professional journals, visits to university library or departmental library and other university libraries, other professional information centers, research organizations and internet etc.

**Table.1 :Maintenance of Personal Library**

| Opinion | Faculty of Arts | | | Sub Total | Faculty of Sciences | | | Sub Total | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc. Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | n=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. n=55 | n=154 | n=312 |
| Yes | 31 (88.57) | 57 (87.69) | 56 (96.55) | 144 (91.13) | 30 (83.33) | 57 (90.47) | 48 (87.27) | 135 (87.66) | 279 (89.42) |
| No | 4 (11.42) | 8 (12.30) | 2 (3.44) | 14 (8.86) | 6 (16.66) | 6 (9.52) | 7 (12.72) | 19 (12.33) | 33 (10.57) |
| Total | 35 (100.0) | 65 (100.0) | 58 (100.0) | 158 (100.0) | 36 (100.0) | 63 (100.0) | 55 (100.0) | 154 (100.0) | 312 (100.0) |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | $\chi^2$ : 3.346<br>df : 2<br>T.V. : 5.99<br>ns | | $\chi^2$ : 1.09<br>df : 2<br>T.V. : 5.99<br>Ns | | |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

It is clear from the table that very large per cent (91.13) of arts faculty and 87.66 per cent of science faculty are maintaining personal libraries. Totally 89.42 per cent of faculty members are maintaining personal libraries.

It is also evident from it that there are no significant differences among faculty of arts and faculty of science with regard to maintaining personal library. The chi-square value is not significant at 0.05 level with two degrees of freedom. This shows the interest of faculty members relating to acquiring, preserving and utilizing recorded information which in turn contributes to flow of information.

**Table.2 :Subscription of Indian/Foreign journals**

| Journals | Nature | Faculty of Arts | | | Sub total | Faculty of Science | | | Sub total | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc. Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | n=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. N=55 | N=154 | n=312 |
| Indian | Subscri-bers | 25 (71.42) | 54 (83.07) | 52 (89.65) | 131 (82.91) | 31 (86.11) | 53 (84.12) | 42 (76.36) | 126 (81.81) | 257 (82.37) |
| | Non subscri-bers | 10 (28.57) | 11 (16.92) | 6 (10.34) | 27 (17.08) | 5 (13.88) | 10 (15.87) | 13 (23.63) | 28 (18.18) | 55 (17.62) |
| Foreign | Subscri-bers | 10 (28.57) | 8 (12.30) | 11 (18.96) | 29 (18.35) | 15 (41.66) | 12 (19.04) | 11 (20.00) | 38 (24.67) | 67 (21.47) |
| | Non subscri-bers | 25 (71.42) | 57 (87.69) | 47 (81.03) | 129 (81.65) | 21 (58.33) | 51 (80.95) | 44 (80.00) | 116 (75.32) | 245 (78.52) |
| | $\chi^2$ (Indian) : 5.120<br>df : 2<br>T.V. : 5.99<br>ns<br>$\chi^2$ (Foreign): 4.038<br>df : 2<br>T.V. : 5.99<br>ns | | | | | $\chi^2$ (Indian) : 1.771<br>df : 2<br>T.V. : 5.99<br>ns<br>$\chi^2$ (Foreign): 7.31<br>df : 2<br>T.V. : 5.99<br>sig : 0.05 | | | | |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

The table reveals that most of the respondents (82.91 per cent of arts faculty and 81.81 per cent of science faculty) are subscribers of Indian journals. Foreign journals are being subscribed by less number of respondents. Among them more Assistant Professors from both the faculties are subscribers of foreign journals.
This shows that the young professionals are very keen in quenching the thirst in their respective subject information through subscription of journals. This is a very healthy practice in this information age.

It is also evident from it that there are no significant differences between the faculty of arts and sciences with regard to subscription of Indian journals. But there is significant difference in faculty of science among Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors with regard to subscription of foreign journals as evidenced by the calculated chi-square value for

the above group which is significant at 0.05 level with two degrees of freedom. That means science faculty are very eager than arts faculty in seeking new information.

The following Figure shows the percentage of respondents cadre wise, who are subscribing Indian/ Foreign Journals.

**Fig.1: subscription of indian / foreign journals - cadre wise**

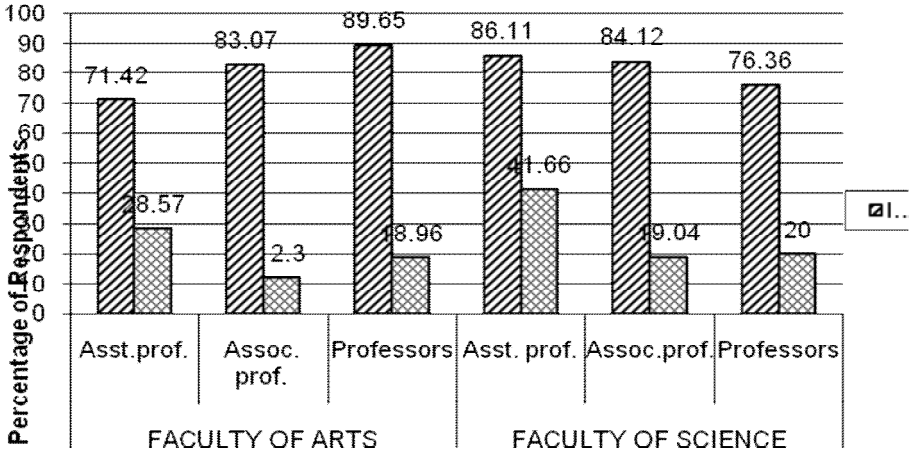



**Table.3 :Frequency of visits to the Department/University Library**

| Frequency of visits | Faculty of Arts | | | Sub Total | Faculty of Science | | | Sub Total | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc. Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | n=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. n=55 | n=154 | n=312 |
| Every day | 1 (2.85) | 2 (3.07) | 3 (1.72) | 6 (3.79) | - | - | 4 (7.27) | 4 (2.59) | 10 (3.20) |
| Twice/Thrice in a week | 16 (45.71) | 23 (35.38) | 22 (37.93) | 61 (38.60) | 13 (36.11) | 16 (25.39) | 12 (21.81) | 41 (26.62) | 102 (32.69) |
| Once in a week | 15 (42.85) | 22 (33.84) | 19 (32.75) | 56 (35.44) | 13 (36.11) | 27 (42.85) | 27 (49.09) | 67 (43.50) | 123 (39.42) |
| Occasionally | 3 (8.57) | 18 (27.69) | 14 (24.13) | 35 (22.15) | 10 (23.77) | 20 (31.74) | 12 (21.11) | 42 (27.27) | 77 (24.67) |
| Total | 35 (100.00) | 65 (100.0) | 58 (100.0) | 158 (100.0) | 36 (100.0) | 63 (100.0) | 55 (100.0) | 154 (100.0) | 312 (100.0) |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

It can be observed from the table that most of the respondents visit department or university library once in a week (39.42 per cent), followed by twice or thrice in a week (32.69 per cent), and occasionally (24.67 per cent). The percentage of respondents in science, who visits library once in a week (43.50), is more when compared to arts (35.44 per cent). Whereas the percentage of respondents in arts, who visits library twice/thrice in a week (38.60 per cent), is more when compared to science (26.62 per cent). Overall percentage of respondents also shows that most of them are visiting the library once in a week (39.42 per cent) and twice/thrice in a week respectively. This shows that faculty members depend on libraries to up date their knowledge.

**Table .4 :Frequency of consulting reading materials in Department/University Library**

| Type of material | Faculty of Arts (n =158) | | | Faculty of science (n = 154) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Frequently | Rarely | Never | Frequentl y | Rarely | Never |
| Subject Journals | 122 (77.21) | 31 (19.62) | 5 (3.16) | 114 (74.02) | 37 (24.02) | 3 (1.94) |
| Subject Books | 136 (86.07) | 20 (12.65) | 2 (1.26) | 135 (87.66) | 18 (11.68) | 1 (0.64) |
| Reference Books | 112 (70.88) | 42 (26.58) | 4 (2.53) | 99 (64.28) | 45 (29.22) | 10 (6.49) |
| General books | 21 (13.29) | 37 (23.41) | 10 (6.32) | 29 (18.83) | 58 (37.66) | 57 (37.01) |
| Electronic media | 34 (21.51) | 35 (22.15) | 103 (65.18) | 34 (22.07) | 93 (60.38) | 27 (17.53) |
| Cartographic material | - | 29 (18.35) | 95 (60.12) | 6 (3.89) | 24 (15.58) | 124 (80.51) |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

The above table shows that, most of the arts and science faculty respondents are frequently consulting their concerned subject material (86.07 per cent and 87.66 per cent) followed by subject journals (77.21 per cent and 74.02 per cent) and reference books (70.88 per cent and 64.28 per cent) Cartographic material is marked under never consulted reading materials, by most of the arts (60.12 per cent) as well as science (80.51 per cent) faculty members.

**Table .5 :Opinions on sufficiency of subject materials in the University Library**

| Level of sufficiency | Faculty of Arts | | | Sub total | Faculty of Science | | | Sub total | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc. Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | N=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. n=55 | n=154 | n=312 |
| Highly sufficient | 1 (2.85) | 3 (4.61) | 4 (6.89) | 8 (5.06) | - | 2 (3.17) | 3 (5.45) | 5 (3.24) | 13 (4.16) |
| Moderately sufficient | 11 (31.42) | 32 (49.23) | 30 (51.72) | 73 (46.20) | 12 (33.33) | 23 (36.50) | 28 (50.90) | 63 (40.90) | 136 (43.58) |
| Less sufficient | 23 (65.71) | 30 (46.15) | 24 (41.37) | 77 (48.73) | 24 (66.66) | 38 (60.31) | 24 (43.63) | 86 (55.84) | 163 (52.24) |
| Total | 35 (100.0) | 65 (100.0) | 58 (100.0) | 158 (100.0) | 36 (100.0) | 63 (100.0) | 55 (100.0) | 154 (100.0) | 312 (100.0) |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

It is evident from the above table that most of the respondents expressed that the subject material available in the department / university library is less sufficient (52.24 per cent), followed by the number of respondents who expressed that it is moderately sufficient (43.58 per cent). The same can be observed in the case of both arts and science faculty respondents. It can be concluded that the respondents are not satisfied with available subject material in the department / university library.

**Table.6 :Opinion on the role of library in Information Generation**

| Role of library | Faculty of Arts | | | Sub total | Faculty of Science | | | Sub total | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc. Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | N=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. N=55 | n=154 | n=312 |
| Highly useful | 19 (54.28) | 32 (49.23) | 47 (81.03) | 98 (62.02) | 28 (77.77) | 44 (69.84) | 29 (52.72) | 101 (65.58) | 199 (63.78) |
| Moderately useful | 16 (45.71) | 27 (41.53) | 7 (12.06) | 50 (31.64) | 7 (19.44) | 16 (25.39) | 21 (38.18) | 44 (28.57) | 94 (30.12) |
| Less useful | - | 6 (9.23) | 4 (6.89) | 10 (6.32) | 1 (2.77) | 3 (4.76) | 5 (7.09) | 9 (5.84) | 19 (6.08) |
| Total | 35 (100.0) | 65 (100.0) | 58 (100.0) | 158 (100.0) | 36 (100.0) | 63 (100.0) | 55 (100.0) | 154 (100.0) | 312 (100.0) |
| | $\chi^2$ : 19.765, df : 4 T.V. : 13.28, sig : 0.01 | | | | $\chi^2$ : 7.123, df : 4 T.V. : 13.28, Ns | | | | |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

It is clear from the table that most of the respondents opined that the library is highly useful in generation of information. Further, it is also evident from the chi square values that significance is there at 0.01 level at 4 degrees of freedom among arts faculty and no significance is found among science faculty. It can be concluded that arts faculty rely and believe that library is the laboratory for social scientist. Hence, it is highly useful in information generation.

**Table.7 :Utilization of Internet for Information Seeking**

| Opinion | Faculty of Arts | | | Sub total | Faculty of Science | | | Sub total | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc. Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | n=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. n=55 | n=154 | n=312 |
| Utili-zed | 18 (51.42) | 15 (23.07) | 25 (43.10) | 58 (36.70) | 23 (63.88) | 36 (57.14) | 28 (50.90) | 87 (56.49) | 145 (46.47) |
| Not utili-zed | 17 (48.57) | 50 (76.92) | 33 (56.89) | 100 (63.29) | 13 (36.11) | 27 (42.85) | 27 (49.09) | 67 (43.50) | 167 (53.52) |
| Total | 35 (100.0) | 65 (100.0) | 58 (100.0) | 158 (100.0) | 36 (100.0) | 63 (100.0) | 55 (100.0) | 154 (100.0) | 312 (100.0) |
| | $\chi^2$ : 9.4837, df : 2 T.V. : 9.21 sig : 0.01 | | | | $\chi^2$ : 1.509, df : 2 T.V. : 9.21 Ns | | | | |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

It can be seen from the above table that 46.47 per cent of faculty members are using Internet for information seeking. Science faculty members are more in number (56.49 per cent) when compared to arts faculty members (36.70 per cent). Another important observation is that more respondents from science (63.58 per cent) and arts (51.42 per cent) in the cadre of Assistant professor are utilizing Internet for seeking information.

There is also significant difference among faculty of arts in this regard as evidenced by the chi-square test of significance. The chi-square value is significant at 0.01 level with 2 degrees of freedom. But, there is no significance among science faculty members.

**Table.8 :Purpose of using Internet**

| Activity | Frequency of using | Faculty of Arts | | | Total | Faculty of Science | | | Total | Grand Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ***Asst. Prof*** N = 18 | Assoc. Prof. N = 15 | Prof. N = 25 | N = 58 | Asst. Prof N=23 | Assoc. Prof. N=36 | Prof. N=28 | N = 87 | N = 145 |
| Teaching | Frequently | 6 (33.33) | 4 (26.66) | 9 (36.00) | 19 (32.75) | 10 (43.47) | 9 (25.00) | 9 (32.14) | 28 (32.18) | 47 (32.41) |
| | Rarely | 7 (38.88) | 11 (73.33) | 14 (56.00) | 32 (55.17) | 13 (56.52) | 27 (75.00) | 19 (67.85) | 59 (67.81) | 91 (62.75) |
| | Never | 5 (27.77) | -- | 2 (8.00) | 7 (12.06) | -- | -- | -- | -- | 7 (4.82) |
| Research | Frequently | 17 (94.44) | 15 (100.00) | 21 (84.00) | 53 (91.37) | 23 (100.00) | 36 (100.00) | 28 (100.00) | 87 (100.00) | 140 (96.55) |
| | Rarely | 1 (5.55) | -- | 4 (16.00) | 5 (8.62) | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5 (3.44) |
| | Never | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Commu-nication | Frequently | 18 (100.00) | 15 (100.00) | 23 (92.00) | 56 (96.55) | 23 (100.00) | 36 (100.00) | 28 (100.00) | 87 (100.00) | 143 (98.62) |
| | Rarely | -- | -- | 2 (8.00) | 2 (3.44) | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 (1.37) |
| | Never | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

The above table clearly says that 96.55 per cent of faculty members (both arts and science) are frequently using Internet for Research work. And 98.62 per cent of faculty members are frequently using for communication purpose. But, less number (32.41 per cent) of faculty members are frequently using for teaching.

It is also clear from the table that hundred percent of the respondents in all cadres, except Arts Professors (92.00 per cent), are frequently using Internet for communication purpose. The same hundred percent response can be observed, except from the Arts faculty Assistant professors (94.44 per cent) and Arts faculty Professors (84.00 per cent), from different cadres of respondents from both the faculties, who are utilizing Internet for research purpose. It can be concluded that Internet plays a vital role in the areas of communication and research.

A question is asked about the reasons for not utilizing Internet. Non-utilizers replied that, they do not have idea about how to operate computer and not aware of Internet and its features.

**Table.9 :Opinions on convenient center for Internet browsing**

| Browsing center | Faculty of Arts (n=158) | Faculty of Science (n=154) | Total (n=312) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Department | 105(66.45) | 103(66.88) | 208(66.66) |
| Library | 24(15.18) | 34(22.07) | 58(18.58) |
| Computer center | 14(8.86) | 8(5.19) | 22(7.05) |
| Others e.g. home etc. | 15(9.49) | 9(5.84) | 24(7.69) |
| Total | 158(100.00) | 154(100.00) | 312(100.00) |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

It is obvious from the above table that 66.66 per cent of faculty members felt that department is the convenient place for providing Internet facility to seek information, and for communication etc. Remaining places like library, computer center, and very few respondents prefer others.

**Table.10 :Awareness of Information Centers/Research Institutions related to their profession**

| Aware-ness | Faculty of Arts | | | Sub total | Faculty of Science | | | Sub total | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc. Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | n=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. n=55 | n=154 | n=312 |
| Yes | 18 (51.42) | 43 (66.15) | 36 (62.06) | 97 (61.39) | 25 (69.44) | 54 (85.71) | 46 (83.63) | 125 (81.16) | 222 (71.15) |
| No | 17 (48.57) | 22 (33.84) | 22 (37.93) | 61 (38.60) | 11 (30.55) | 9 (14.28) | 9 (16.36) | 29 (18.83) | 90 (28.84) |
| Total | 35 (100.0) | 65 (100.0) | 58 (100.0) | 158 (100.0) | 36 (100.0) | 63 (100.0) | 55 (100.0) | 154 (100.0) | 312 (100.0) |
| | $\chi^2$ : 2.098 df : 2 T.V. : 5.99 Ns | | | | $\chi^2$ : 4.308 df : 2 T.V. : 5.99 ns | | | | |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

Table 10 shows that most of the faculty members (71.15 per cent) are aware of the Information Centers and Research Institutions etc related to their profession. In this, faculty of science respondents (81.16 per cent) are more, when compared to faculty of arts (61.39 per cent).

It can also be observed that most of the Associate Professors and Professors, in both the faculties, are aware of the professional information centers / Research institutions when compared to Assistant Professors.

**Table .11 :Getting information from Information Centers/Research Institutions – Cadre wise**

| Service | Faculty of Arts | | | Sub total | Faculty of Science | | | Sub total | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc. Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | n=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. n=55 | n=154 | n=312 |
| Current awareness service | 11 (31.42) | 20 (30.76) | 20 (34.48) | 51 (32.27) | 18 (50.00) | 27 (42.85) | 12 (21.81) | 57 (37.01) | 108 (34.61) |
| SDI Service | 10 (28.57) | 12 (18.46) | 23 (39.65) | 45 (28.48) | 17 (47.22) | 23 (36.50) | 18 (32.72) | 58 (37.66) | 103 (33.01) |
| Abstract & Indexing Service | 10 (28.57) | 18 (27.69) | 23 (39.65) | 51 (32.27) | 19 (52.77) | 31 (49.20) | 29 (52.72) | 79 (51.29) | 130 (41.66) |
| Translating Service | 1 (2.85) | 3 (4.61) | 4 (6.89) | 8 (5.06) | 6 (16.66) | 1 (1.58) | 6 (10.90) | 13 (8.44) | 21 (6.73) |
| Document Delivery | 7 (20.00) | 16 (24.61) | 13 (22.41) | 36 (22.78) | 14 (38.88) | 13 (20.63) | 4 (7.27) | 31 (20.12) | 67 (21.47) |
| Online services | 4 (11.42) | 1 (1.53) | 6 (10.34) | 11 (6.96) | - | 8 (12.69) | 8 (14.54) | 16 (10.38) | 27 (8.65) |
| Data bases | 8 (22.85) | 15 (23.07) | 14 (24.13) | 37 (23.41) | 11 (30.55) | 18 (28.57) | 19 (34.54) | 48 (31.16) | 85 (27.24) |
| CD-ROMs | 2 (5.71) | 3 (4.61) | 5 (8.62) | 10 (6.32) | 9 (25.00) | 14 (22.22) | 5 (9.09) | 28 (18.18) | 38 (12.17) |
| | $\chi^2$ : 8.215 df : 14 T.V. : 23.68 Ns | | | | $\chi^2$ : 27.193 df : 14 T.V. : 23.68 0.05 | | | | |

**(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)**

From table 11, it can be concluded that majority of the faculty members, 41.66 per cent, are receiving abstracting and indexing services, followed by 34.61 per cent members, who are receiving Current Awareness Service and Selective Dissemination of Information is being

received by 33.01 per cent of respondents. Further it can also be observed from the table that large number of respondents from Faculty of Science (51.29 per cent) and faculty of arts (32.27 per cent) respondents are receiving abstracting and indexing services from professional institutions/ research institution in their respective fields.

There is also no significant difference among faculty of Arts with regard to receiving services from professional institutions. But, there is significant difference among faculty of science with regard to receiving information services at 0.05 level with fourteen degrees of freedom as evidenced by the chi-square value.

**Table .12 :Opinions on necessity to seek professional information for their Academic Work**

| Academic activity | Rank | Faculty of Arts | | | | Faculty of Science | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Asst. Prof. n=35 | Assoc Prof. n=65 | Prof. n=58 | Sub Total n=158 | Asst. Prof. n=36 | Assoc. Prof. n=63 | Prof. n=55 | Sub Total n=154 | Grand total n=312 |
| Teaching | I | 17 (48.57) | 34 (52.30) | 30 (51.72) | 81 (51.26) | 16 (44.44) | 25 (39.68) | 15 (27.27) | 56 (36.36) | 137 (43.91) |
| | II | 17 (48.71) | 26 (40.00) | 24 (41.37) | 67 (42.40) | 20 (55.55) | 35 (55.55) | 33 (60.00) | 88 (57.14) | 155 (49.67) |
| | III | 1 (2.85) | 5 (7.69) | 4 (6.89) | 10 (6.32) | - | 3 (4.76) | 7 (12.72) | 10 (6.49) | 20 (6.41) |
| Research | I | 18 (51.42) | 28 (43.07) | 24 (41.37) | 70 (44.30) | 29 (80.55) | 33 (52.38) | 36 (65.45) | 98 (63.63) | 168 (53.84) |
| | II | 15 (42.85) | 33 (50.76) | 31 (53.44) | 79 (50.00) | 7 (19.44) | 27 (42.85) | 13 (23.63) | 47 (30.51) | 126 (40.38) |
| | III | 2 (5.71) | 4 (6.15) | 3 (5.17) | 9 (5.69) | - | 3 (4.76) | 6 (10.90) | 9 (5.84) | 18 (5.76) |
| Extension services | I | 2 (5.71) | 2 (3.07) | 3 (5.17) | 7 (4.43) | - | 2 (3.17) | 2 (3.63) | 4 (2.59) | 11 (3.52) |
| | II | 2 (5.71) | 3 (4.61) | 1 (1.72) | 6 (3.79) | - | 2 (3.17) | 6 (10.90) | 8 (5.19) | 14 (4.48) |
| | III | 31 (88.57) | 60 (92.30) | 54 (93.10) | 145 (91.77) | 36 (100.00) | 59 (93.65) | 47 (85.45) | 142 (92.20) | 287 (91.98) |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

It is observed from table that the order of preference relating to seeking of information for the academic work by faculty of Arts is teaching (51.26 per cent) research (50.00 per cent) and extension services (91.77 per cent) respectively. Among them slight difference can be seen between Assistant Professors and other cadres of faculty members, who gave first preference to research. A different trend, that is giving first preference to research (63.63 per cent) followed by teaching (57.14 per cent) and extension services (92.20 per cent) by science faculty, which is in line with the overall preferences viz., research (53.84 per cent), teaching (49.67 per cent) and extension services (91.98 per cent) can also be observed from the data presented in the above table.

It can be concluded that, all the cadres of science faculty seek information mainly for research purpose. Most of the Arts faculty seek information mainly for teaching purpose. Extension services have been preferred least by the faculty members.

**Table 13. Usage of informal/formal channels for seeking information**

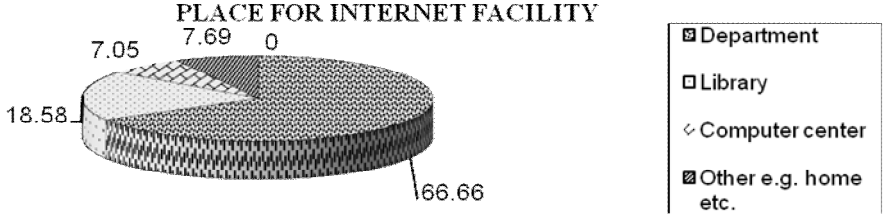
| Channel/ Order of preference | Faculty of Arts (n=158) | | | | | | Faculty of Science (n=154) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | I | II | III | IV | V | Vi |
| **INFORMAL CHANNELS:** Consulting a professional colleague | 78 (49.36) | 46 (29.11) | 14 (8.86) | 9 (5.69) | 4 (2.53) | 7 (4.43) | 41 (26.62) | 33 (21.42) | 54 (35.06) | 6 (3.89) | 6 (3.89) | 2 (1.29) |
| Invisible college | 68 (43.03) | 63 (39.87) | 20 (12.65) | 6 (3.79) | 2 (1.26) | - | 51 (33.11) | 52 (33.76) | 14 (9.09) | 16 (10.38) | 8 (5.19) | 2 (1.29) |
| Technological Gatekeepers | 3 (1.89) | 11 (6.96) | 13 (8.22) | 21 (13.29) | 17 (10.75) | 92 (58.22) | 11 (7.14) | 7 (4.54) | 9 (5.84) | 13 (8.44) | 27 (17.53) | 73 (47.40) |
| People | 2 (1.26) | 9 (5.69) | 39 (24.68) | 33 (20.88) | 67 (42.40) | 8 (5.06) | 3 (1.94) | 11 (7.14) | 12 (7.79) | 42 (27.27) | 56 (36.36) | 18 (11.68) |
| Media | 6 (3.79) | 12 (7.59) | 40 (25.31) | 66 (41.77) | 28 (17.72) | 6 (3.79) | 11 (7.14) | 16 (10.38) | 13 (8.44) | 57 (37.01) | 37 (24.02) | 8 (5.19) |
| e- sources | 13 (8.22) | 9 (5.69) | 28 (17.72) | 28 (17.72) | 43 (27.21) | 37 (23.41) | 34 (22.07) | 18 (11.68) | 31 (20.12) | 11 (7.14) | 11 (7.14) | 36 (23.37) |
| **FORMAL CHANNELS** Primary sources | 122 (77.21) | 31 (19.62) | 2 (1.26) | 3 (1.89) | - | - | 104 (67.53) | 35 (22.72) | - | - | - | - |
| Secondary sources | 20 (12.65) | 111 (70.25) | 19 (12.02) | 2 (1.26) | - | - | 24 (15.58) | 62 (40.25) | 12 (7.79) | - | - | - |
| Tertiary sources | 3 (1.89) | 8 (5.06) | 103 (65.18) | 44 (27.84) | - | - | 2 (1.29) | 5 (3.24) | 101 (65.58) | 34 (22.07) | - | - |
| Information centers etc. | 5 (3.16) | 12 (7.59) | 35 (22.15) | 106 (67.08) | - | - | 13 (8.44) | 7 (4.54) | 22 (14.28) | 100 (64.93) | - | - |

(Note: Numbers in Parentheses indicate percentages)

It is evident from above table that majority of the Arts respondents first preferred, consulting professional colleagues, to seek information (49.36 per cent) followed by the number of respondents seeking information through invisible colleges (43.03 per cent). It can also be observed that this is reversed in the case of science respondents, most of them give first preference to invisible colleges (33.11 per cent) followed by the percentage of respondents (26.62 per cent) consulting professional colleagues to seek information. Another observation that can be derived from the above table is that both the faculties are giving least preference to Technological Gate keepers and e-sources respectively.

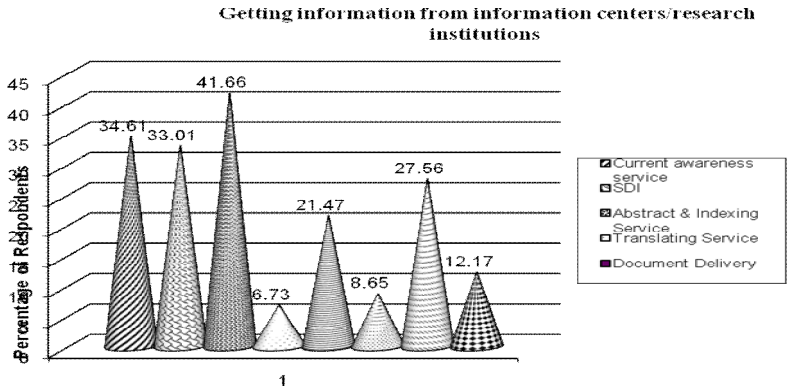
With regard to the formal channels, it is clear from the table that most of the arts (77.21 per cent) and science (67.53 per cent) respondents are primarily preferring primary sources and according to them information centers are the least preferred ones. The following figure shows the percentage of respondents opinions on convenient center for Internet browsing.

FIG.: PERCENTAGE OF FACULTY MEMBERS OF CONVENIENT PLACE FOR INTERNET FACILITY




A question is asked to know the visits to other than university library. All the respondents (100 per cent) are visiting other than university library for their research and academic works.

Below Figure shows the percentage of faculty members according to getting different types of information related to their fields from information centers/research institution etc.




## Conclusions

It is a known, proved and accepted fact that the libraries play a vital role in generation and dissemination of information. The respondents are getting information not only through their departmental or central libraries, but are also from information centers and research organizations, personal libraries and through subscription of journals in their subject fields. As most of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction regarding the libraries, measures are to be taken to improve the resources and infrastructure facilities in their university libraries. As library is the laboratory to the faculty, improved library facilities enable the faculty to contribute more to the flow of information filling the gap which is existing between the information rich and poor in their respective areas.

Measures are to be taken in providing information literacy in libraries and, in departments, and creating awareness among the users, relating to the availability and utility of internet, which will show positive effect on generation and transfer of information. And, libraries must understand information seeking behaviour of users to re-build their services and provide information efficiently and effectively at right time.

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