Information Sources and needs of the Users in Public Libraries in Tirunelveli District

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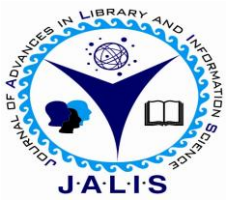
Abstract

The present study examines the Information sources and information needs of the users in Public libraries in Tirunelveli District. The collected questionnaire has been analyzed and presented in the form of suitable tables. It is clear for the study that the most of the users are aware of various types of resources and search strategies for seeking the relevant information from the library. The article concludes with appropriate Information sources and needs in Tirunelveli District

Keywords

Information sources; Information needs; Search Strategies.

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1. Introduction

The rapid advancement of Information and Communication Technology has brought are evolutionary change in information scenario giving rise to a number of options to the users' community to handle various information sources conveniently and effortlessly as a result of which web based electronic resources have become the lively substance to the modern library reserves in satisfying varied needs of faculty members with minimum risk and time. Behavioral studies are carried out to find out the overall pattern of interaction of the user community with the communication system, without reference to any specific information receiving event. The basic assumption behind behavior studies is that the library and information system and its services need improvement from time to time as per the changing information needs of its community. The behavior studies help us in filling up the gap between the kind of information services available in the library and those required for reading community. The new technology has made information easily available to them in different formats. The electronic library is considered a gift to the faculty members as it provides an easy and quick access to more and better updated information.Thus , this paper will mainly focus on Information Sources and needs of the Users in Public Libraries in Tirunelveli District.

2. Review of Literature

Many similar studies related to the topic have been reviewed, and the literature review gives a broader outlook. Some of the important reviews are presented below.Seifi Leili (2011) discusses the problems faced by the libraries and museums in archiving and managing, preserving, and providing continuing access to these digital assets for their long-term management. The book also discusses about technical, economic, language, technological issues in digital preservation with focus on both countries. Iwhiwhu&Okorodudu (2012) identified the response rate of the administered questionnaire is 196 (98%). The result showed that 123 (62.8%) respondents were males while 73 (37.2%) was females. The majority of the respondents (103, 52.6%) were between 21-24 years of age while 15.8% and 13.3% are between the ages of 15-20 years and 25-34 years respectively. In an another study around Nigeria Uzuegbu and Uzuegbu (2013) mentioned information resources for community information centres are sourced bearing in mind the needs of the people. The situation where resources of all kinds are brought into

libraries (public libraries) not caring for their relevance to the people's need are never the case with community information centres. Thus, the information provider looks out to what the users' needs are, who has the information that will solve their needs and where to gather them. Public Libraries Section - Country Reports. (2014) shows the Department for Public Library Services ensure assistance for book stock development , equipment purchases , seminar or workshops , and training/ refresher courses, awareness programmes and ICT development in public libraries. The foundation also disburses funds to NGOs , professional organizations interested local bodies, and university departments of library science.
Karkee, P. (2015) Examined the attitude of librarians and library in-charges of government and government sponsored public libraries towards the use of mobile phone technologies in the hilly areas of Darjeeling with respect to their demographic profile, their mobile phone brands, SIM system and mobile phone network, mobile phone functions and their phone usage attitudes. The analysis showed that there are positive attitudes of public librarians towards cellular technologies across this hilly region. Ians, (2017) Identified Several Indian states still do not have library legislation in place and hence their libraries do not follow any standards of an enactment. This results in lesser government funding and poorer facilities. It is observed that while states with enacted legislation spend hundreds of crores on their public libraries,

3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives behind conducting the present study are:

1. To trace the origin and process of growth and development of public libraries during 2001 and 2010.
2. To analyse the features, functions and facilities of public libraries.
3. To assess the performance of public libraries from the user point of view.

4. Methodology

The study's scope is restricted to Information sources and users needs in District Public Library in Tirunelveli District. The study is mainly based on the primary data collected from the users of sample public libraries in Tirunelveli district through a well-designed questionnaire. Also secondary data has been collected from sources like text books, reference books and other sources. Since complete coverage of such a large population in a scientific enquiry is impossible, for the purpose of the study a random sampling method was adopted. Samples of 808 respondents out of 825 were chosen from the seven library administrative taluks, in order to study the information seeking behaviour of users of public libraries from Tirunelveli Taluk.

5. Data Analysis

The data collected by different methods were analyzed and interpreted and the same is presented in the following tables.

5.1. Nature of Library Building

In Tirunelveli district the public libraries are functioning both in rented and own buildings. Following table exhibits the nature of public library buildings.

Table 1: Nature of Building in Public Libraries

S.No	Taluk	Rented Building	Own Building	Total
1.	Tirunelveli	6	12	18
2.	Palayamkottai	7	13	20
3.	Nanguneri	9	18	27
4.	Thenkasi	8	15	23
5.	Ambasamudaram	9	18	27
6.	Alangulam	6	15	21
7.	Sankarankovil	7	17	24
	Total	52	108	160

(source: Primary Data)

The above Table-1 shows the libraries are functioning both in rented and own buildings. Among the 160 libraries, 108 libraries are functioning in the own building and 52 buildings are by rental buildings.

5.2. Year of Establishment of Public Libraries

In Tirunelveli district the public libraries were identified the year of establishment. Following table 2 exhibits the year of establishment.

Table 2: Name of Libraries under Study

Sl.No.	Name of Libraries	Year of Establishment
1.	Tirunelveli District Central Library	05.02.1952
2.	Palayamkottai Public Library	05.02.1952
3.	Sankarankoil Public Library	05.03.1958
4.	Ambasamudram Public Library	15.09.1959
5.	Tenkasi Public Library	15.10.1961
6.	Alangulam Public Library	25.03.1966
7.	Nanguneri Public Library	31.05.1954

(source: Primary Data)

The above Table-2 shows the libraries year of establishment. Among the libraries, Tirunelveli District Central Library and Palayamkottai Public Library were established in 1952.

5.3. Distribution of Age Group Wise Members

In Tirunelveli district the public libraries members were distributed by age groups wise in the table 3.

Table 3: Distribution of Age Group Wise Members

Age group	District Library	Branch libraries	Both	None	Total
Below 18	-	48(5.94)	-	164(20.29)	212(26.24)
19 – 30	14(1.73)	96(11.88)	42(5.19)	144(17.82)	296(36.63)
31 – 40	28(3.46)	62(7.67)	12(1.48)	58(7.17)	160(19.81)
Above 41	14(1.73)	40(4.95)	10(1.23)	76(9.40)	140(17.32)
Total	56(6.93)	246(30.44)	64(7.92)	442(54.7)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

While analyzing the above table 3 it was revealed that, out of the total population of 808, only 6.93 per cent were the members of the District Library, while 30.44 per cent of Branch libraries and 7.92 per cent as members of oth District and Branch libraries. It is further revealed that, 54.7 per cent were none of the library member from the respondents. Hence, it could be seen that more than half of the populations were not the members of either of the libraries. Going by age group, 36.63 per cent members were between 19-30 years of age while 26.24 per cent of library members were below 18 years of age, whereas, 19.81 per cent members belong to the 31-40 age group and 17.32 per cent members belong to above 41 years of age.

5.4. Library Membership by Educational Qualifications

Library membership by educational qualifications has been tabulated under Table 4 and is analyzed below:

Table 4: Library membership by educational qualifications

Qualification	District Library	Branch libraries	Both	None	Total
Under HSC	-	46(5.69)	6(0.74)	64(7.92)	116(14.35)
HSC	22(2.72)	92(11.38)	22(2.97)	132(16.33)	268(33.18)
Graduate	14(1.73)	54(6.68)	16(1.98)	160(19.8)	244(30.2)
Post Graduate	20(2.47)	54(6.68)	20(2.47)	86(10.64)	180(22.27)
Total	56(6.93)	246(30.44)	64(7.92)	442(54.7)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

From the above table 4, it is clear that library membership of the District Library, located at Tirunelveli, is only 6.93 per cent out of which there are 2.72 per cent, 1.73 per cent and 2.47 per cent against HSC, Graduate and Post Graduate respectively. There are more members in Branch Libraries fromHSC having 11.38 per cent, which is almost double from the rest. Membership in both the categories of libraries is also highest from HSC respondents. Membership from under HSC is lowest which may be due to the non availability of textbook section in the libraries since most of them school going children.

5.5. Library Membership by Occupation

Membership of various occupations has also been analyzed from data received. The library membership by occupation has been depicted in Table 5,

Table 5 : Library Membership by Occupation

Occupation	District Library	Branch libraries	Both	None	Total
Student	4 (0.49)	94 (11.63 per cent)	20 (2.47)	242 (29.95)	360 (44.55)
Service	40 (4.95)	96 (11.88 per cent)	20 (2.47)	132 (16.33)	288 (35.64)
Self-employed	-	24 (2.97)	8 (0.99)	28 (3.46)	60 (7.42)
Others	12 (1.48)	32 (3.96)	16 (1.98)	40 (4.95)	100 (12.37)
Total	**56 (6.93)**	**246 (30.44)**	**64 (7.92)**	**442 (54.7)**	**808 (100)**

(source: Primary Data)

Table 5 shows the occupation, out of the 808 respondents, 11.63 per cent are Branch library members, 2.47 per cent are both the library members and 0.49 per cent are District Library members from students. 11.88 per cent of service personals are Branch libraries member and 4.95 per cent are District Library members, whereas only 2.47 per cent are member of both the libraries. Service persons claim the highest number in library membership in Branch Libraries, followed by student having 11.63 per cent. Self-employed and other category of persons were not very fond of library membership, which can be assumed that they have no time to access information from the libraries that may be due to their daily works or engagements.

5.6 Frequency of Library Visit

One of the most important criteria for the evaluation of a library services can be carried out from its visitors. A library may have big and sophisticated infrastructure with good collection of documents and other materials or with the latest ICT applications but if there are no library users or visitor, all those materials do not carry of much importance. Library users are one of the trinity of libraries, viz., books, staff and users/readers. Users/readers play a crucial role to study the impact or importance of a library for the peoples it serves. If library serves very well to its clients, the users will visit frequently and they will not turn away from it. To assess the impact of District and Branch Libraries for the local community, it is adequate to know the frequency of library visit by the local community to access their information needs is essential. Frequency of library visits by age group has been presented in Table 6 as below.

Table 6: Frequency of Library Visits by Age Group

Age group	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Total
Below 18	8(0.99)	52(6.43)	26(3.21)	126(15.59)	212(26.23)
19 – 30	20(2.47)	84(10.39)	26(3.21)	166(20.54)	296(36.63)
31 – 40	18(2.22)	44(5.44)	20(2.47)	78(9.65)	160(19.8)
Above 41	8(0.99)	28(3.46)	12(1.48)	92(11.38)	140(17.32)
	54(6.68)	208(25.7)	84(10.39)	462(57.17)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

The above Table 6 depicts that among the total number of library users, 57.17 per cent visits the library occasionally while 25.7 per cent visit weekly and 10.39 per cent visit monthly. Further, while analyzing the above data with respect to age group, the users in between 19 and 30 and 31 and 40 constitute 2.47 per cent and 2.22 per cent respectively visiting library daily while, 0.99 per cent are age group of above 41 and below 18 years. It is interesting to note that, the age group in between 19 and 30 is the highest i.e, 10.39 per cent visit the library weekly.

5.7. Frequency of Library Visit by Occupation

The library visitors/users by their occupations have been analyzed in Table 7.

Table 6: Frequency of Library Visit by Occupation

Occupation	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Total
Student	14(1.73)	100(12.37)	42(5.19)	204(25.24)	360(44.55)
Service	36(4.45)	56(6.93)	24(2.97)	172(21.28)	288(35.64)
Sefl-employed	-	28(3.46)	6(0.74)	26(3.21)	60(7.42)
Others	4(0.49)	24(2.97)	12(1.48)	60(7.42)	100(12.37)
Total	54(6.68)	208(25.7)	84(10.39)	462(57.17)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

It could be revealed from the analysis of the above table 6 that, among the District and Branch libraries visitors by occupation, 57.17 per cent visits the library occasionally whereas students claim highest in

number i.e., 25.24 per cent of the total respondents. Occasional visitors are the highest, and followed by weekly and daily.

5.8 Purpose of Library Visits

Public library, District or Branch Libraries, is a place where all local community persons can access their information needs through different means of services. Library members or non-members of the locality have the opportunity to access the library services irrespective of race, culture, sex, religion or caste.

In a knowledge society, all the members of a community are eligible to acquire their information needs from various sources. They can avail the opportunity of the library services and to do so, they may approach the library or information centers at any places for different purposes. The purposes of library visits by library users can be shown in a table 7.

Table 7: Purpose of Library Visit by Age Group

Age group	To read Books	To read periodicals	To borrow books	Others	Total
Below 18	64(7.92)	10(1.23)	124(15.34)	14(1.73)	212(26.23)
19 – 30	80(9.9)	44(5.44)	154(19.05)	18(2.22)	296(36.63)
31 – 40	48(5.94)	12(1.48)	80(9.9)	20(2.47)	160(19.8)
Above 41	48(5.94)	26(3.21)	48(5.94)	18(2.22)	140(17.32)
Total	240(29.7)	92(11.39)	406(50.24)	70(8.66)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

By analyzing the above data at Table 7, below 18(eighteen) years of age 15.34 per cent visit library for the purpose of borrowing books and only 1.23 per cent visit the District and Branch libraries for periodicals. Among the 19-30 age group, 9.9 per cent goes to the library to read books and 5.44 per cent for periodicals; and 19.05 per cent are to borrow books for home reading, which is very high in comparison to other purpose in the same age group. Among the 31 to 40 age group, 5.94 per cent goes to the library to read library books, 1.48 per cent for periodicals, 9.9 per cent to borrow books and 2.47 per cent for other reasons.

5.9 Purpose of Library Visit by Occupation

The following Table 8 represents data of purpose of library visit by occupation and the same has been analyze below:

Table 8 : Purpose of Library Visit by Occupation

Occupation	To read books	To read periodicals	To borrow books	Others	Total
Student	108(13.36)	16(1.98)	200(24.75)	36(3.96)	360(44.55)
Service	84(10.39)	40(4.95)	130(16.08)	34(4.2)	288(35.64)
Self-employed	20(2.47)	28(3.46)	12(1.48)	-	60(7.42)
Others	28(3.46)	8(0.99)	64(7.92)	-	100(12.37)
Total	240(29.7)	92(11.39)	406(50.24)	70(8.66)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

The above table 8 illustrates that out the total respondent, 13.36 per cent of students visit the District and Branch libraries to read books, which is 30 per cent among the student respondent. Consultation of periodicals is low, only 1.98 per cent of total respondent (4.44 per cent of students group) are for periodical consultations. 24.75 per cent student of total respondents visit library to borrow books. Clearly we can see that service persons more consulted periodicals than students. Out of the total respondents only 4.95 per cent of service persons visit library for periodicals. This shows that service persons are much interested in the latest information through periodicals than students. Other categories of persons that may include pensioners, politicians, social workers, etc. visit libraries mainly to borrow books constituting 7.92 per cent; some of them to read books in the library and only few of them, 0.99 per cent consulted periodicals.

5.10 Approaches of the Library

Public libraries are regarded as local gateway of information, which can be accessed by local community to quench their information thirst. At the same time, human beings have different information needs depending upto their personal interests. Library users are having different approaches in t library to locate or accessed their interest through different means documents. The approach of the entire library users are of different, but the approaches are to

quench their information needs in one kind or the other. Library users are of different in nature, works or business, but, in a information age, all have to acquire certain kind of information, which can help them in their personal field. The approaches of student and business man military person and professional officer may be different in nature. There for all library users, married or unmarried, student or research scholar, children adult have their information needs and hence the following tables depict the different approaches of the District and Branch libraries users.

The approaches of District and Branch libraries by various age group presented by data received from the respondents and is illustrated in Tab 9.

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Table 9: Approaches of Library by Age Group

Age group	Social Information	Cultural Information	Educational Information	Recreation Leisure	Others	Total
Below18	6(0.74)	4(0.49)	98(12.12	76(9.4)	28(3.46)	212(26.23)
19 - 30	46(5.69)	16(1.98)	162(20.04)	40(4.95)	32(3.96)	296(36.63)
31 - 40	40(4.95)	16(1.98)	44(5.44)	26(3.21)	34(4.2)	160(19.8)
Above41	44(5.44)	-	52(6.43)	30(3.71)	14(1.73)	140(17.32)
Total	136(16.83)	36(4.45)	356(44.06)	172(21.28)	108(13.36)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

The above table 9, supported by Graph, represents approaches of various library users by their age group. Below 18 years of age approaches the District and Branch Libraries generally for their educational information being they are school going children. The approaches for social or cultural information are only 0.49 per cent of the total respondents to below 18 years. Among the 19-30 years of age, 20.04 per cent are for Educational information, whereas 4.95 per cent are for recreation or leisure. Between 19- 30 years of age, 5.69 per cent library users approach for social information, which is high enough in comparison to below 18 years of age. 6.43 per cent of above 41 years of age approaches library for educational information that is highest in this group and followed by 5.44 per cent of social information. To 31-40 age groups, 5.44 per cent approach for educational information and is highest in this group.

5.11 Sources of Information

The primitive notion of library as 'storehouse of books' is also now considered as 'source of information'. Library being a source of information for its client collects and arranges different means of communication materials for the users. Latest ICT equipments are also part of the means of accessing information in a knowledge society. Books, viz., reference books, textbooks, novels, etc., periodicals and journals/periodicals, newspapers, computer files, VCD/DVD, microfiche/microfilms, Audio-Visuals, etc. are part and parcel of information materials that are supposed to be available in the libraries.

To understand the main sources of information of District and Branch libraries users, the researcher analyzes data from questionnaire on four points, viz., books, journals / periodicals, Audio-visual, and others. The following Table 10 represents data on use of information sources by age group.

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Table 10 : Use Of Information Sources By Age Group

Age Group	Books	Journals / periodical	Audio visual	Others	Total
Below 18	152(18.81)	34(4.2)	8(0.99)	18(2.22)	212(26.23)
19 - 30	180(22.27)	90(11.13)	6(0.74)	20(2.47)	296(36.63)
31 – 40	104(12.87)	50(6.18)	-	6(0.74)	160(19.8)
Above 41	68(8.41)	60(7.42)	-	12(1.48)	140(17.32)
Total	504(62.37)	234(28.96)	14(1.73)	56(6.93)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

The above table 10, supported by graph, depicts that book is the main source of information in the District and Branch Libraries to the age group of below 18 years. Out of the total respondents, 18.81 per cent of this age group use library books for their main source of information, which is very high in comparison to the second source, Journals / periodicals being only 4.2 per cent. To the age group of 19-30 years of age, books is again the main source of information being 22.27 per cent and followed by Journals periodical being 11.13 per cent, that is only half of the later. Again, for 31-40 age group, book is still the main source of information in the library, being 12.87 per cent and followed by Journals periodicals, 6.18 per cent only. But, for the age group of 41 above, books and Journals / periodicals have contributed as source of information from the library constituting 8.41 per cent and 7.42 per cent respectively. Hence, the researcher found that books

are the main source of information to all those age groups in District and Branch libraries as a whole.

5.12. District/Branch Libraries as Depository of Local Information Needs

The services of the District/Branch Libraries, being a part of public library, are designed to facilitate and invite use of resources and satisfy the reading goals of individuals of all ages and groups. The services provided, for the best result, should provide resources to cater information needs of the users for the benefit of the community in one way or the other.

The following Table 5.29 demonstrates data from received respondents on District/Branch libraries as local information need by age and has been analyzed accordingly.

Table 11 : Libraries As Depository Of Local information Needs By Age Group

Age wise	Yes	No	No Idea	Total
Below 18	68(8.41)	80(9.9)	64(7.92)	212(26.23)
19 – 30	94(11.63)	172(21.28)	30(3.71)	296(36.63)
31 – 40	68(8.41)	60(7.42)	32(3.96)	160(19.8)
Above 41	48(5.94)	64(7.92)	28(3.46)	140(17.32)
Total	278(34.4)	376(46.53)	154(19.05)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

The above table 11 clearly shows that available resources in the District / Branch Libraries in Tirunelveli are not much beneficial to cater local information needs for 19-30 years of age. To this age group, 21.28 per cent declared that they do not deposit enough information, but 11.63 per cent are happy with the collections. But, for age group 31-40, 8.41 per cent avow that they provide enough information whereas 7.42 per cent do not agree. To the above 41, 7.92 per cent are not happy with the deposits of District/Branch Libraries, but 5.94 per cent are happy with the collections. By taking the total data of respondents, 46.53 per cent District that public library deposits are not sufficient for local information, whereas 34.4 per cent agree of the deposits provided to its clients.

5.13 District and Branch Libraries on Educational Development

It is earlier stated that education has no ends. Life is full of education from cradle to grave. The learning process may be through formal or informal education, by which one can impart knowledge in one field or the other. In this sense, scholars argue it that education and libraries are the two side of the same coin, one cannot be separated from the other. Library is the basic principle and root of education. Educational systems are, sometimes, changing and the present study will confine to the present system.
Table 5.33 that illustrates data on District/Branch Libraries as life long center by age has been analyzed in table 12.

Table 12 : Library Supports Life Long Learning By Age

Age wise	Yes	No	No Idea	Total
Below 18	100(12.37)	84(10.39)	28(3.46)	212(26.23)
19 – 30	96(11.88)	152(18.81)	48(5.94)	296(36.63)
31- 40	64(7.92)	54(6.68)	42(5.19)	160(19.8)
Above 41	74(9.15)	56(6.93)	10(1.23)	140(17.32)
Total	334(41.33)	346(42.82)	128(15.85)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

From the above table 12, it can be declared that 12.37 per cent of below 18 years of age agree District/Branch Libraries as life long learning center hereas 10.39 per cent of the total respondents against them. Likewise, 31-40 age group declared that District and Branch Libraries as life long learning center, constituting 7.92 per cent 'Yes' and 6.68 per cent 'No' and above 41 age have the same conclusion having higher percentage of respondents 'Yes' to 'No'. But, for age group 19-30, District and Branch Libraries cannot be regarded as life long learning center; 18.81 per cent of the total respondents against the later while 11.88 per cent support the later statement.

5.14 Formal and Non-formal Education Center

Public library, as peoples' university and local gateway to knowledge, provides basic condition for life long learning independent-decision making to the community. It is a living force for education, and an essential agent for fostering of peace and spiritual welfare among people. District/Branch libraries, being public library system serves the community by

providing knowledge to the general and specific in both formal and non-formal education.

The next Table 13 represents data of respondents on District/BranchLibraries as a center of formal and non-formal education by occupation and has been analyzed .

Table 13 : Library As Center of Formal And Non-formal education

Educational qualification	Yes	No	No Idea	Total
Under HSC	98(12.12)	10(1.23)	8(0.99)	116(14.35)
HSC	228(28.21)	22(2.72)	18(2.22)	268(33.17)
Graduate	182(22.52)	36(4.45)	26(3.21)	244(30.2)
Post Graduate	168(20.79)	8(0.99)	4(0.49)	180(22.27)
Total	678(83.66)	76(9.41)	56(6.93)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

The above table affirms that 13 per cent of the under HSC respondents agree District and Branch libraries as the center of formal and non-formal education, whereas 1.23 per cent does not agree. But the difference between 'Yes' and 'No' is quite high. Likewise, 28.21 per cent of HSC respondents affirm libraries as center of formal and non-formal education system. Again, 22.52 per cent and 20.79 per cent of both graduates and post-graduate respondents say 'Yes' respectively. On the other hand, 2.72 per cent of HSC, 4.45 per cent of graduates and 0.99 per cent of post-graduate respondents assured themselves that District and Branch Libraries are not a center of formal and non-formal education. In total, 83.66 per cent of total respondents agree that District and Branch Libraries as center of formal and non-formal education, but 9.41 per cent does not agree to that point, and still then, 6.93 per cent have no idea about the statement.

5.15. Preservation of Cultural Heritage

It is also statement earlier that District and Branch Libraries are center and preservation of cultural heritage. It does not preserve but also promotes through its activities or services render to the general community. In this regard, it can organize different programmes, like music concerts, dances, dramas, painting competition for children, exhibition of painting, etc.

The following Table 14 is the representation of data received from the respondents on library as preservation of cultural heritage by age and the same is analyzed as follows.

Table 14 : Library As Preservation Of Cultural heritage By Age Group

Age group	Yes	No	No Idea	Total
Below 18	60(7.42)	62(7.67)	90(11.14)	212(26.23)
19 – 30	142(17.57)	84(10.39)	70(8.66)	296(36.63)
31 – 40	88(10.89)	26(3.21)	46(5.69)	160(19.8)
Above 41	64(7.92)	52(6.43)	24(2.97)	140(17.32)
Total	354(43.81)	224(27.72)	190(23.51)	808(100)

(source: Primary Data)

The above table 14 depicts District and Branch Libraries as promoter and preservation of cultural heritage. Out of the total population, 17.57 per cent of 19-30 age group agreed and 10.39 per cent does not agree to the statement, whereas 8.66 per cent have no idea. Age group of 31-40 are also of the opinion that District and Branch Libraries as center of cultural heritage, 10.89 per cent agree and only 3.21 per cent does not agreed. According to below 18 years of age group, 7.42 per cent of respondents declared District and Branch Libraries as center and promoter of cultural heritage, but 7.67 per cent of them do not agree to that statement. The whole picture clearly affirms District and Branch Libraries as promoter and cultural heritage by constituting 43.81 per cent as 'Yes' and only 32.67 per cent against it.

6. Conclusion

This study provided an insight into the information sources and needs by the users in Tirunelveli District Public Libraries. . It enables Information sources and information needs which were provided by the public libraries. Due to rapid development in the area of Internet and Information Technology, large amount of educational resources are being produced, distributed and accessed in the different format. The dependency on information sources is increasing everyday and users of public libraries are depending more on information resources available through internet to meet there academic and other needs. The

users should become familiar with latest search strategies and techniques for better utilization of available resources.

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