Clients' Access Level of Academic Libraries in Arts and Science Colleges of Tirunelveli District

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Abstract

The libraries are not only collecting and providing access to printed materials, but also managing ever-increasing number of electronics resources, online indexes, databases, e-journals etc., The e-books are increasing day by day and are available in the internet. The present paper deals with information seeking behavior of students of the present age of technology in the Arts and science Colleges of Tirunelveli District. It also analyzes the utilization level of e-journals, characteristics of e-journals, types of e-journals, steps involved in accessing e-journals the role of library professionals, its merits and demerits. To collect the data, 150 questionnaires are distributed, and 146 filled questionnaires was collected from the students of Arts &Science colleges in Tirunelveli District.

Keywords
Information Seeking Behavior; Arts &Science College; Tirunelveli District; E-resources.

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Introduction

The academic library is the nerve center of an academic environment and serves for the development of academic excellence and research activities to suit the needs of this age of information explosion. These libraries are service organizations within the academic library. The technical words which are in use in the library service like 'patron', 'client' 'users', and 'customer' are evidences of its significant services to the elite community. Academic libraries serve the scholars and students in four ways: Firstly, they meet the elite communities' information needs in the specialized subjects by acquiring a wide variety of materials. Secondly, they provide a central location and proper environment for the storing and preserving of the specific resources. Thirdly, academic libraries add value to the stored resources acquired by organizing them for easy access. Fourthly, the library staff improve access by providing assistance to individuals in locating the needed information. The college library has the responsibility of making information sources available in different forms to encourage reading habits of the learners. Library users read books to get the latest information related to their day-to-day practical life. Books are responsible for creating and generating reading habits among the college students. Though reading habits are essential need of the students, the enormous explosion of information published in the form of newspapers and books in different subjects, it is impossible for all libraries to subscribe all that are published at the national and international levels. Under these circumstances the best way of serving the users is to display books properly and notifying users about the new information related to education.

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

The need for information is one of the cognitive needs of mankind. Information need leads to information seeking behavior and these concepts complement each other, and have been affected by many other factors like the source, need, form, nature of the clientele etc. The information seeking behavior of an academic library focuses on the immediate need of the elite users. It is mainly concerned with the factors such as needs, like what kind of information, for what purpose, how the latest information and updated facts and figures are found, evaluated, and used, and how these needs and demands can be identified and satisfied. The efficiency and the effectiveness in organizing the resources by

comprehending the information seeking behavior of the clientele to provide the right information to the right users at the right time in right perspective is the essence of library and information services. Academicians develop information seeking behavior and enter libraries with the following motives:

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Balasubramanian.P (2019) Research Methodology, Information and many efforts have been made to enhance usefulness of the book. In this first edition a new chapter on Library and Information Science and its role in research have been included keeping in view the fact that library science professionals by now have become an indispensable part of research equipment. Subject content has been developed and restructured at several places. The book is primarily intended to serve as a text book for library and information science students of all Indian Universities. Arshad and Ameen (2018) wrote on "Scholarly Information Seeking of Academic Engineers and Technologists." The study was on selected engineers from the University of Punjab and 61% have responded in the survey. The Library was used by academic engineers and technologists for their scholarly tasks, and their usage pattern of electronic journals, e books, discussion with colleagues and electronic research reports are studied. They have used the general search engines, Google Scholar and open access e-journal website for their academic purpose using the up-to-date and supervising researchers.White (2017) carried out a study on "Information behaviors of elite scholars in the context of academic practice." It was found to permeate scholars' work from conceptualization through publication, and included behaviors such as skimming, reading, data collection, analysis and writing. The study reveals that, how scholars from across the academy engage with information throughout the course of their academic work and information seeking activities. Reijo Savolainen (2016) analyzed on "Information seeking and searching strategies as plans and patterns of action: A conceptual analysis." It showed that Henry Mint Berg's idea has a pattern in the stream of actions. Conceptual analysis used 57 selected libraries and Information Science professionalized. The aspect of strategy focused on the using pattern and information searching, exist and absence, of intention. The result of the conceptualizations of information search classified into conceptual space of information behavior research.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The focus of the study is to analyze the level of reading habits and the utilization of library services by the students of Arts & Science Colleges in Tirunelveli District. The statement of the problem is to analyze the information seeking behavior of the students of arts and science Colleges in Tirunelveli District.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives are framed for the study.

1. To identify the causes or motives of reading among the students of Arts & Science Colleges.
2. To know the level of information seeking behavior of respondents.
3. To identify the factors affecting the users' reading habit.
4. To provide possible recommendations to make reading habits more convenient.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is concerned with the information seeking behavior of students in the Arts & Science Colleges in the Tirunelveli District. This district has 24 Arts & Science Colleges which affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. Out of these colleges, 5 Colleges were considered for the present study.

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this study, a stratified random sampling method was followed for the selection of respondents. The study is based on the primary data collected from the students. A questionnaire was developed for this study and given to 150 students found in the libraries and the filled 146 questionnaires was collected from the students of select Arts &Science Colleges in Tirunelveli District. Sufficient time was given to the respondents for furnishing the information. Their suggestions relating to the improvement of library services are also called for.

Tools Used for the Collection of Data

For the collection of primary data from the respondents, a structured, close-ended questionnaire consisting of 25 questions was used. Besides this, a few informal conversations also helped for adding

some information. The study is restricted to the students and research scholars the Arts &Science colleges in Tirunelveli District area alone.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: The Population of the sample

S. N.	Users	Questionnaire Distributed	Question-naire Received	percentage (%)
1	U.G Students	50	48	33.3%
2	P.G Students	45	43	30.0%
3	M. Phil. Scholars	35	35	23.3%
4	Research Scholars	20	20	13.3%
	Total	150	146	100%

The above table shows that the population of the sample. Total 150 questionnaires are distributed to the women students. Out of these, 50 questionnaires distributed to UG students, 45 questionnaires to PG students, 35 questionnaires to M.Phil. Scholars and 20 distributed to Research Scholars. Out of these 146-questionnaire received from the respondents of UG students 48, PG students 43, M.Phil. Scholars and Research scholars returned back all filled questionnaires.

Table 2: Motives of Reading (or) Purpose for visiting the library

Sl. No.	Motives/Purpose	U.G Students	P.G Students	M. Phil. Scholars	Research Scholars	Total (Percentage)
1	To get information	08	11	09	04	32(21.92)
2	To update and improve G.K	08	03	04	03	18(12.33)
3	For Academic Purposes (Exam, teaching And Research Work)	12	13	16	10	51(34.93)
4	For Entertainment	06	04	01	00	11(7.53)
5	For Reference	14	12	05	03	34(23.29)
	Total	48	43	35	20	146(100)

Table 2 shows that the motives of reading level of respondents. Students of Arts & Science college reading the books and newspapers to get information, to update general knowledge, for academic purposes, for teaching and research purposes, for entertainment and for reference.21.92% students reading to get information. To update and improve General Knowledge 12.33% students are reading. For academic purposes 34.93% students are reading. For entertainment purpose only 7.53% students are reading. For reference 23.29% students are reading. Besides this purpose, students using reading to learn something and to talk with others about the books what they have read. Nearly one in eight, reading science fiction or fantasy, followed by mystery and crime, romance and non-fiction books also.

Table 3: Time spent for Reading

Sl. No.	Time Spent	U.G Students	P.G Students	M. Phil. Scholars	Research Scholars	Percentage (%)
1	Less than One Hour	08	09	05	02	24(16.44)
2	1-2 Hours	22	19	18	10	69(47.26)
3	More than 2 Hours	18	15	12	08	53(36.30)
4	Total	48	43	35	20	146(100)

Table 3 shows that most of the students i.e., 47.26% are spent their time for reading are 1-2 hours and 16.44% of the students spent their time in the library are less than one hour and 36.30% students spent their time for reading more than two hours.

Table 4: Factors Affecting the reading Habits

Reasons	**U.G Students**	**P.G Students**	**M. Phil. Scholars**	**Research Scholars**	**Percentage (%)**
Lack of Time	12	06	08	05	31(21.23)
Inconvenient library hours	18	14	13	02	47(32.19)
Non-availability of reading materials of my interest	07	09	08	11	35(23.97)
Distance is more from the classroom	11	14	06	02	33(22.60)
	48	43	35	20	146(100)

Table 4 shows that most of factors affecting the reading habits or the students are not visiting the library are inconvenient library hours (ie,32.19%) and non-availability of reading materials of their interest(ie,23.97%) and lack of time students are21.23% and more distance is the reason for 22.60% students.

Table 5: Facilities Available inside the library for reading

Physical Facilities	**Good**	**Satisfactory**	**Undecided**	**Not Satisfactory**	**Poor**	**Total**
Ventilation	16	09	02	02	03	32(21.92)
Lighting	13	08	01	03	02	27(18.49)
Cataloguing	14	07	02	01	01	25(17.12)
Book Arrangement	18	08	03	02	03	34(23.29)
Seating Arrangement	13	09	04	01	01	28(19.18)
Total	74	41	12	9	10	146(100%)

This table shows that most of the students are satisfied with the physical facilities available on the library, i.e., Ventilation, Lighting, Cataloguing, Book arrangement and seating arrangement.74 Students responded as good and 41 students are satisfactory, 12 students are undecided, 09 students are not satisfactory with the facilities available in the library and 10 students are responded as poor.

Table 6: Difficulties at the time of using the library

Sl. No	Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	42	28.77
2	No	104	71.23
	Total	146	100

Table shows that 104 (71.23) respondents are not found the difficulties at the time of using library and only 42(28.77) respondents are found difficulties at the time of using the library.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- It is found out that most of the students are reading for their academic purposes i.e., for studying, teaching and for research work.
- Most of the students (47.26%) are found spending their time in the library for reading are 1-2 hours.
- Most of the factors affecting the reading habit is inconvenient library hours (32.19%) and non-availability of reading materials of their interest (23.97%)
- Most of the students (50.68%) are fully satisfied with the facilities available in the library for reading.

SUGGESTIONS

1. College libraries should conduct campus reading programs, book clubs, readers' advisory services and quiet and comfortable reading areas should provide.
2. Parents should encourage the students to read and visit libraries even from the childhood as computers and smart phones have become

dominant features that affect the reading habit and information seeking behavior of younger generation.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of data clearly reveals that libraries of Arts & Science colleges in Tirunelveli District are encouraging the reading habit of the students. Easy access to reading materials is one of the important factors in cultivating reading habit. Students are use both prints and electronic resources that are available through the college libraries to develop their reading habits and to fulfill their academic purposes. When they are unable to find the information, they need using the university libraries. Maximum students borrowed minimum 4 books and maximum 15 books in a year. In the academic libraries there should be adequate books and newspapers to accelerate reading habits. This study will be helpful for the librarians to understand that the significance of the information seeking behavior of students and to improve the services related to library to enhance their knowledge.

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