Research Output of Information Seeking Behaviour of Users: A Study of Doctoral degrees awarded in Indian Universities with reference to INDCAT

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Abstract

Information-seeking behaviour arises from the perceived need of a user, whereby the individual identifies his or her needs for information, searches for information and finally transfers the information obtained. INDCAT is an important bibliographic database of books, journals, and Doctoral Theses of Indian Universities and major Institutions of higher education, hosted by INFLIBNET. In this paper an effort has been made to study the research contribution of "Information Seeking Behaviour of users" in doctoral degrees awarded Indian Universities.

Keywords

INDCAT; Information Seeking Behaviour; User Studies; Indian Catalogue; Bibliographic Database; Online Union Catalogue; Doctoral Theses.

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INTRODUCTION

The development of subjects isn't static. Development is found growth in nearly each subject. Expansion and development of the topic depends on the course of study and analysis on the topic. Systematic development of quantitative and appraising science studies since the mid-20th century. Pritchard (1969)1 outlined the term bibliometrics is "the application of mathematical and applied math ways to books and alternative media of communication. info seeking behaviour is intensive requisites, that involves a group of actions that a personal takes to convey info wants, ask for info, judge and choose info, and eventually use this info to satisfy his/her info wants. Adio (2012) various factors could resolve the knowledge seeking behaviour of a personal or a gaggle of people. It is, therefore, fascinating to grasp the aim that info is needed, the situation during which the users activate users' skills in characteristic the required info, passage and sources most well-liked for feat info, and constraints to info. A endurable truth of the knowledge wants of library users is imperative for libraries in re-orienting their collections, services and activities to synchronize them with the knowledge seeking behaviour of their users. Basha (2013).Information behaviour encompasses information-seeking as well as the totality of other unintentional or passive behaviours (glimpsing or encountering information), as well as purposive behaviours that do not involve seeking, such as actively avoiding information (Case 2002). Ingwersen and Järvelin (2005:384) define information behaviour as the "human behaviour dealing with generation, communication, use and other activities concerned with information, such as, information-seeking behaviour and interactive information retrieval."Information-seeking behaviour arises from the perceived need of a user, whereby the individual identifies his or her needs for information, searches for information and finally transfers the information obtained (Ikoja-Odongo and Mostert 2006). According to Kuhlthau (1993), information-seeking behaviour entails the seeking of information that might contribute to understanding and meaning required in order to meet a need. To satisfy that particular need the user may need to consult either formal or informal information sources or services. This article examines the research output of doctoral degrees awarded Indian Universities on subject of "Information Seeking Behaviour of users".

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mahajan, Preeti (2009) discusses the information-seeking behavior of undergraduates, postgraduate students, and researchers in sciences, social sciences, and the humanities at the Panjab University in Chandigarh, India. The collection at the Panjab University Library, which includes books, journals, online journals, and a digital library portal, is explored. The kinds of academic information needed by the respondents, the types of resources they prefer, whether or not they are satisfied with the library collections and the general pattern of information-seeking are examined. It was found that users were satisfied with the library collections and services but would like training in using online information**.** Information behaviour is a broad term that covers information needs, information seeking behaviour, information searching and information use (Case 2000). The relationship between these concepts is that where there is a need, a user usually seeks information in order to meet the need. For this study, the concepts of information needs and information seeking behaviour will be explored, within the context of community library users

INDCAT

IndCat is a Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities is unified Online Library Catalogues of books, theses and journals available in major university libraries in India. The union database contains bibliographic description, location and holdings information for books, journals and theses in all subject areas available in more than 179 university libraries across the country. A Web-based interface is designed to provide easy access to the merged catalogues. The IndCat is a major source of bibliographic information that can be used for inter-library loan, collections development as well as for copy cataloguing and retro-conversion of bibliographic records. The IndCat consists three components available in open access to users and librarians. And also it consists Union database of Theses covers the bibliographic Metadata of Doctoral Theses submitted to 287 Universities/Institutes in India. It has over 2,53,073 unique records from all subject areas.

OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of the study are:

- To identify the "Information Seeking Behaviour" subject wise trends of library and information science research in India.
- To know the state wise distribution of doctoral theses on "Information Seeking Behaviour"
- To identify the chronological development of doctoral theses on "Information Seeking Behaviour

METHODOLOGY

The data collected from INDCAT (http://indcat.inflibnet.ac.in/) Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities is unified Online Library Catalogues of books, theses and journals available in major university libraries in India. A total of 405 entries of Ph.D. theses found on "Information Seeking Behaviour" by searching in title and subject search and taken only from Library and Information Science, and collected data were analysed using MS Excel spreadsheets.

University-wise Distribution of Doctoral Theses on Information Seeking Behaviour in Library and Information Science in India

Table 1: University-wise Doctoral Theses on Information Seeking Behaviour in Library and Information Science in India

S. No.	Name of the University	No. of Ph.D's	%
1	Andhra University	18	4.44
2	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	3	0.74
3	Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalaya	1	0.25
4	Sri Venkateswara University	8	1.98
5	Guru Ghasidas University	6	1.48
6	University of Delhi	20	4.94
7	Krantiguru Shyamji Krushn Varma Kachchh University	1	0.25
8	Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda	1	0.25
9	Saurashtra University	1	0.25
10	Kurukshetra University	3	0.74
11	University of Kashmir	3	0.74
12	Bangalore University	14	3.46
13	Gulbarga University	7	1.73
14	Karnatak University	37	9.14
15	Kuvempu University	11	2.72

16	Mangalore University	8	1.98
17	University of Mysore	8	1.98
18	Kannur University	1	0.25
19	University of Calicut	19	4.69
20	University of Kerala	10	2.47
21	Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University	3	0.74
22	Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	14	3.46
23	Jiwaji University	12	2.96
24	Vikram University	3	0.74
25	University of Pune	8	1.98
26	Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	5	1.23
27	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University	10	2.47
28	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University	3	0.74
29	Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University	4	0.99
30	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	1	0.25
31	University of Mumbai	4	0.99
32	Manipur University	9	2.22
33	North Eastern Hill University	9	2.22
34	Mizoram University	7	1.73
35	Sambalpur University	10	2.47
36	Berhampur University	1	0.25
37	Gauhati University	5	1.23
38	Utkal University	2	0.49
39	Guru Nanak Dev University	3	0.74
40	Panjab University	11	2.72
41	Punjabi University	3	0.74
42	University of Rajasthan	13	3.21
43	Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University	3	0.74
44	Anna University	1	0.25
45	Annamalai University	14	3.46
46	University of Madras	4	0.99
47	Osmania University	11	2.72
48	Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Open University	1	0.25
49	Banaras Hindu University	7	1.73
50	University of Lucknow	2	0.49
51	Bundelkhand University	4	0.99
52	University of Calcutta	7	1.73
53	Jadavpur University	7	1.73
54	University of Burdwan	17	4.20
55	Vidyasagar University	7	1.73
	Total	405	100

Table 1 shows that there are 55 universities throughout the India produced 405 theses altogether "Information Seeking Behaviour". The table shows that Karnataka University has been produced maximum number of theses that is 37 (9.14%). Guru Ghasidas University 20(4.94%) (University of Calicut 19(4.69%) and Andhra University 18(4.44) is in the second, third and fourth positions occupied, many universities are providing lesser number of doctoral theses.

Table 2:State-wise Doctoral Theses on Information Seeking Behaviour in Library and Information Science in India

S.No.	State	No. of Ph.D's	%
1	Andhra Pradesh	30	7.41
2	Chhattisgarh	6	1.48
3	Delhi	20	4.94
4	Gujarat	3	0.74
5	Haryana	3	0.74
6	Jammu & Kashmir	3	0.74
7	Karnataka	85	20.99
8	Kerala	30	7.41
9	Madhya Pradesh	32	7.90
10	Maharastra	35	8.64
11	Manipur	9	2.22
12	Meghalaya	9	2.22
13	Mizoram	7	1.73
14	Odisha	18	4.44
15	Punjab	17	4.20
16	Rajastan	16	3.95
17	Tamil Nadu	19	4.69
18	Telangana	12	2.96
19	Uttar Pdesh	13	3.21
20	West Bengal	38	9.38
	Total	405	100

Table 2 shows the state-wise distribution of doctoral theses on Information Seeking Behaviour in LIS in India. It is revealed from the table that 20 states have contributed LIS researches in India. The maximum number of theses produced in Karnataka state. West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi respectively with the average of 38.6% and remaining produced the lesser number of doctoral theses.

Table 3: Year-wise Distribution of Doctoral Theses on Information Seeking Behaviour in Library and Information Science in India

S. No.	Year	No. of Ph.D's	%
1	1965-1970	10	2.47
2	1971-1975	26	6.42
3	1976-1980	33	8.15
4	1981-1985	29	7.16
5	1986-1990	24	5.93
6	1991-1995	33	8.15
7	1996-2000	51	12.59
8	2001-2005	60	14.81
9	2006-2010	73	18.02
10	2011-2015	54	13.33
11	2016	12	2.96
	Total	405	100

Table 3 shows the year-wise distribution of theses on Information Seeking Behaviour in LIS in India. The table shows that the progress of the subject started from 1965-1970 and 2016, the maximum number of theses produced between the years of 2006-2010, 2001-2005, 2011-2015 and 1996-2000 and remaining years there are lesser number of theses are produced, and overall 8.3% theses are produced every year on Information Seeking Behaviour in LIS.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Growth of the subject depends much upon the continuous research and development work. The expansion of the branch of knowledge base of LIS needs rapid research work. The study shows that research field of LIS is very much alive in our country. Different new problems occur in different corner of the library and many new areas are introduced in the Information Seeking Behaviour. Bibliographic databases are a vital source of secondary information for the researchers and academicians to search and access to most relevant literature in their area of interest. INDCAT is a major source of bibliographic information of Indian Universities/ Institutions hosted by INFLIBNET, for the scholarly communication among academic communities in India. In this article an effort has been made to analyze the INDCAT records of Doctoral theses submitted on "Information Seeking Behaviour" in LIS to the Indian Universities.

The rapid work of LIS research in last two decades shows that our faculties are strong enough to guide different areas of research and scholars from different states took different issues or problems which ultimately expand the LIS domain especially in Information Seeking Behaviour of users. But there is growing need to do research in much faster speed than before. More research in LIS field make the subject more alive and initiatives should come from every end.

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