

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF FACULTY OF SKIET & GEC ENGINEERING COLLEGES

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Abstract— The concept of information remains vague, it can be perceived as something between data, knowledge which is communicated or received concerning a particular fact of circumstance in order to reduce the user's uncertainty by meeting their needs. To create information awareness and to promote the use of information, it is necessary to know the needs of the users. The present age of information explosion has resulted in an escalating growth of information need of users has become varied and multidimensional. This paper examines the information seeking behavior and use pattern of faculty members of technical institutions. This study examines several aspects of library use, time spent by the faculty, huddles in information seeking behavior, methods adopted by faculty for seeking information etc.

Index Terms— Information Seeking Behaviour , Information Explosion, Current Awareness, Information Channel.

I. INTRODUCTION

The present era is the era of information and knowledge revolution. Many electronic resources are available in the library. The increase in information available on the Web has affected information seeking behavior. Innumerable types of information, in a large variety of containers and in many different locations, are all available in one place (Fidel et al., 1999). In the modern society, the types of information and the media which present them have become manifold and multifarious, offering men and women a vast selection. Regardless of which group in a human society is discussed, each one bases its actions upon current information and discards the earlier data. Philosophies emphasize the direct, experiential acquisition of knowledge in the material, physical plane of existence as the most proper form of information. So, no one can deny that knowledge and information are vital.

There is a universal assumption that man was born innocent or ignorant and should actively seek knowledge. "Information seeking is thus a natural and necessary mechanism of human existence" (Marchionini, 1995). Information seeking behavior is the purposive seeking for information as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal. In the course of Seeking, the individual may interact with manual information systems or with computer based systems.

Information is the foundation stone of knowledge. It is the source which helps in decision making, management, research, education or career in any profession. It is the most essential ingredients for one's survival and existence. Users' studies are conducted primarily on behavior of the users in seeking information and it does not matter the level and type of information system to which they affiliate and what they seek. These studies are useful to analyze the faculties, psychology, attitude, the subject field in which he is interested the working condition and his position in the society that considerably influence his real need. Information seeking behavior has become a determining factor in designing any information system or to bring suitable improvement to the existing system. Therefore information seeking and gathering plays a vital role in all active teaching and learning methods. Academic libraries are prominent organizations which plays a crucial role in fulfilling the information needs of its users. Teaching is an art and teachers should update their knowledge then and there for effective teaching. Latest information in their respective field will support their teaching needs and support their work of research and other activities. Any source of information the faculty needs should be available in the library. That can be in the form of text books, Periodicals, or Audio Visual materials etc. Needs of the users varies with the kind of the user. The user's needs are to be satisfied at the earliest possible time.

Definition

The Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science defines information as 'Data presented in readily comprehensible form to which meaning has been attributed within the context of its use'. The term information seeking behavior has been used in the research literature since the 1950's. Information need, then, leads to information seeking. According to Wiberley et.al. (1989), information seeking is a basic activity in which all people participate, manifest through particular behaviors. Wilson (1999), defines it, "those activities a person may engage in when identifying their own needs for information, searching for such information in any way, and using or transferring that information". Information seeking behavior is "a manner in which a user conducts himself in relation to a given information environment. It is therefore regarded as essentially a process of inter action between the user and the rest of the information system.

II.Literature review

Thanuskodi S and Ravi S (2011). One of the study revealed that the most of the faculties were used e-resources and Google and AltaVista were the popular search engines among the faculty. The problems include that Internet facility, digitized materials and audio visual materials are not provided in most departmental libraries of faculty of Social Sciences

Bhatti Rand Hanif M (2013). In this study it was observed that maximum social science faculty are engaged in article writing and they preferred that an electronic mode to of publish their articles. It was revealed that maximum. Good number of faculty was not aware about the programs conducted on how to use e-resources .

Sankari et.al. (2011) studied about the information seeking behavior of users of engineering college and found that document delivery services is in demand. The researchers need more indexing, abstracting and interlibrary loan services. They stretched about user orientation services, seminars and workshop to be conducted often.

Kingkawe et.al. (2005) carried out a research work on "Information seeking behaviour of faculty members of Rajabhat University in Bangkok" and found that information needs can be meet by the large collections of library materials. A person in the library should be knowledgeable to meet the users needs.Adequate training programmes for staffs for using the libraries OPAC, tools for searching facilities, online data bases, using electronic journals, introduction for indexing and abstracting services should be given.

Bhatti (2009) reports that faculties use library resources for teaching than resource purposes. Inter library loan is essential for better performance. There is a shortage of current journals and a need of a liaison officer for better communication between the library and the faculty.

Thanuskodi (2009) reveals that the faculty uses electronic information sources less frequently than the printed sources. The reference section Methodology.The present study is based on survey method for collection of data. A pre ordained structured questionnaire has been designed anticipating the information needs, seeking behavior and use pattern of faculty members of technical Institutions of Haryana These will be divided among two Colleges Geeta engineering college panipat and Sri Krishna engineering college kurukshetra. The questionnaire was distributed to 75 respondent of both the institute. Random samplings have been taken in each college. In addition, a visit has been taken to the libraries of both the colleges to meet the library experts so as to acquire more useful information for their purpose.

III.Need of the study

The nature of information is not easy to describe. Perhaps the most explicit definition in the literature defines information as recorded experience that is used in decision-making. Today, information technology has developed rapidly and

has had a huge impact on access to information and on information seeking behavior. Librarian and library-staff have to know and examine the criteria of information seeking and information used by users for providing information services, designing new information systems, intervening in the operation of existing systems, or planning in service programs.

The researchers tried to get the answers from the following questions:

1. What kind of information is sought by faculty members?
2. What methods are used for seeking information?
3. How is information technology used by faculty members?
4. What languages are used by faculty members?
5. What are the problems of seeking information and how it can be solved?

IV.DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Questionnaires were distributed among both the colleges. A total of 150 questionnaires were circulated in that 110 duly filled questionnaires were received. The result of response rate is 73.3%. The collected data were analyzed, classified and tabulated. Institute Wise Response 150 questionnaires were distributed to the faculty members of GEC and SKIET. 110 filled in questionnaires were returned by the faculty members (63 in SKIET & 47 in GEC). The overall response rate is 73.3%.

Table 1: Institute Wise Responsetstitute Questionnaiponse %ageuted Received

| | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|--------------|
| GEC | 75 | 63 | 84 |
| SKIET | 75 | 47 | 62.67 |
| Total | 150 | 110 | 73.3received |

This table shows the designation and college wise respondents. The study finds that out of 110 respondents lecturers 48(43.63) take the majority, 35(31.81) are Asst professors and 27(24.54) are professors. 31(28.18) are male and 32(29.09) are female from GEC and 34(30.90) are male and 13(11.81) are female form SKIET.

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Lecturers | 12 | 16 | 14 | 6 | 48 |
| | 25 | 33.33 | 29.16 | 12.5 | 43.64 |
| Asst. | 9 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 35 |
| Professors | 25.71 | 28.57 | 31.42 | 14.28 | 31.82 |
| | | | | | |
| Professors | 10 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 27 |
| | 37.03 | 22.22 | 33.33 | 7.4 | 24.54 |
| | 31 | 32 | 34 | 13 | 110 |
| | 28.18 | 29.09 | 30.9 | 11.81 | 100 |

Most common aspect of the study is utilization of the library. The table shows the faculties visit to the library by their

designation. According to the analysis lecturers from GEC(25.45) visit the library than SKIET (18.18). Same as Asst.Professors of GEC(17.27) visit the library than SKIET(14.54). Same as Professors of GEC (14.54) visit the library than SKIET (10).

This table shows faculty members of GEC visit the library very often for their purposes. There is no major difference between the faculty members of both the college in Information seeking behavior.

Frequency of Library Visit

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Daily | 9 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| Weekly | 12 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Fortnightly | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Monthly | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 28 | 20 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 11 |
| | 25.46 | 18.18 | 17.27 | 14.54 | 14.54 | 10 |

The question was asked about the usage of library by the faculty members. This table shows that 21(19.09) respondents responded from GEC and 17 (15.45) from SKIET use periodical section .11 (10) from GEC and 8 (7.27) from SKIET use Reference section. 23 (20.90) from GEC and 11 (10) from SKIET use digital library section for online data bases. 4 (3.63) from GEC and 5 (4.54) from SKIET use Abstracting and indexing services. 4 (3.63) from GEC and 6 (5.45) from SKIET use reprographic services.

Purpose of the visit

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Reading Periodicals/ Newspapers | 21 | 17 |
| | 19.09 | 15.45 |
| Reading Reference Books | 11 | 8 |
| | 10 | 7.27 |
| Using database | 23 | 11 |
| | 20.9 | 10 |
| Abstracting & Indexing | 4 | 5 |
| | 3.63 | 4.54 |
| Reprographic Services | 4 | 6 |
| | 3.63 | 5.45 |

1) Internet search engines

All respondents (56 percent) use search engines, especially Google, followed by Yahoo 35 percent, Sanook 6 percent and Excite 2 percent (see Table 6).

| Search Engines | No. of respondents | % |
|----------------|--------------------|----|
| Google | 147 | 56 |
| Yahoo | 52 | 35 |
| Sanook | 9 | 6 |
| Excite | 3 | 2 |
| Hunsa | 3 | 2 |
| Kapok | 3 | 2 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| MSN | 1 | 1 |
| AltaVista | 1 | 1 |

The Google search engine is mostly used because it is fast in access, regularly updated and links are provided to web sites in the world (Asemi, 2005).

II) Type of information

Faculty members were asked to indicate the type of information source which they used to seek information (Table 4). For seeking information, textbooks were the popular type of information source for all faculty members (57 percent). Fifteen percent of faculty members use periodicals. Brown (1999) found that all of the scientists used textbooks, journals and monographs to support teaching activities.

Types of information

| Types of materials | No. | % |
|-------------------------|-----|----|
| Textbooks | 148 | 57 |
| Periodicals | 40 | 15 |
| Newspapers | 19 | 7 |
| Exhibition | 12 | 5 |
| Government publications | 11 | 4 |
| Reference books | 9 | 4 |
| Pamphlets | 7 | 3 |
| Patents | 6 | 2 |
| General books | 5 | 2 |
| Thesis/Research reports | 2 | 1 |

Use of CD-ROM

A question was asked to the faculties about the use and awareness of CD-ROM and subject gateways/portal services. (60%) faculty has very good awareness followed by (25%) were good awareness. Whereas (20%) of faculty have poor and (10%) are very poor in database access awareness. (5%) are un-certain of database awareness.

V. Conclusions and Discussion

The successful operation of any library depends to a large extent on the choice of library collections. The choice of the collection should meet the need and requirements of the end users. Consequently, librarians must be aware of how the faculty members seek information. The first three preferences given by the faculty for seeking information are textbooks, periodicals and newspapers. It is also observed that the majority of faculty members sought information for preparing lectures, keeping up-to-date knowledge and research work. Wales (2000) reveals that journals appear to be the most popular source for current awareness purpose. Faculty members used several methods to seek information, but they prefer to consult a knowledgeable person in the field. Thai Language is used by them for reading materials. In reality, it was found that they use the Internet strongly at home for education. E-mail is specifically used for communication because it saves time and money. ERIC is used by faculty members, as it is an education database which

is popular and easy to use. The problems they faced while seeking information are incomplete information, lack of information and time, etc. Raw (1987) stated the lack of time, and it is still as prominent as ever.

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