

Information Need and Information Seeking Behavior of faculties affiliated Arts Colleges in Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan

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Abstract

An attempt has been made to study Information Need and information seeking behavior of the Arts college faculties in Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan. The study reveals that except for a few colleges, most of the faculties were not aware of the IT, due to lack of infrastructure in their libraries. Questionnaires method was used to collect data from the college faculties to understand their information seeking and thereby, suggest application of ICT to all the colleges Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University.

Keywords: Information Need, Information Seeking Behavior, Survey, Arts college faculties.

1. INTRODUCTION

Use of information, need of information, gaps of information and types of information requirements to meet variety of use has become the focus of study today. Taking into consideration the exponential growth in the entire field of knowledge and the rate at which the technological innovations are advancing, it has become necessary that the library/information.

2. DEFINITIONS

Information

Ching – Chih Chen and Peter Hernon define information as, “all knowledge, ideas, facts, data, and imaginative works of mind which are communication formally and informally in any format.”

Information Needs

The Librarian's Thesaurus defines information need as, “that need which library services or materials are intended to satisfy.”

Information Seeking

Ching – Chih Chen has defined information seeking as follows, “Information seeking patterns are the paths pursued by the individual in the attempt to resolve a need.”

Information Seeking Behavior

According to Girjakumar, “Information Seeking Behavior is mainly concerned with who needs what kind of information for what reasons ; now information is found, evaluated and used.”

3. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study is:

1. To identify what resources are used regularly in the library to meet the information need.
2. To examine information seeking behavior of faculty of Arts colleges in Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University.
3. To study the purpose of information seeking by faculty members.
4. To explore the use of information technology for seeking the information.
5. To study the problems faced by faculty members while seeking the information.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Fatima and Ahmad (2008) examined the study to find out the awareness and use of library resources by the students, to find out the type of information sources used by the students, to ascertain users opinion regarding usefulness and adequacy of information sources and services and to know the purpose of seeking information. About the frequency of visit to the library 51.67% respondents visit every day in library and 31.67% respondents visit 2-3 times in a week. Regarding purpose of visit to library, it is seen that 78.33% users visit the library to study, 71.66% users to borrow books and 65% for browsing the shelves. For use of library sources and services, it was found that 75% of students used newspapers, 71.66% used books and journals and 55% used Issus / Return services in library.

Kumar (2009) explored in the study, the information needs and use patterns of faculty members and research of Chaudhary Charan Singh University. To identified the constrains faced in using and searching information in libraries. the 200 data collected through the questionnaire was analyzed using FoxPro database management system software. the data analyzed by simple percentage and chi square test. the result of study show that 96% of respondents visited library to borrow books, 80% for study / research / training purpose and 81.50% visited library to locate information books and journals.

Patel (2005) investigated to explore information needs and seeking behavior of the teacher of the teachers training colleges of University of Gujarat State. The objectives of this study were to identify need and purpose of information seeking of teachers in teachers training colleges. The result of the study shows that 96.47% of respondents read regularly for satisfied their information needs. 64.42% respondents reading newspaper, 99.36% reading magazines, 72.44% used library for study purpose only and 36.54% used library for entertainment. The study also show that major respondents needs current information in their fields. 88.46% of respondents used library for reading magazines.

5. METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire was designed for the faculties of both the colleges for the present study. the investigator distributed questionnaires during the 2011-12 academic year. the present study through

simple random sampling method covered 250 questionnaires in college out of which 200 was received.

6. OBSERVATIONS

Table-4.1

Faculty strength and sex wise Distribution

category	Male	Female	Ration(M /F)	Total
College	140	60	(70%/30%)	200

The first table indicates the Faculties strength and sex wise distribution of the respondents. out of the 200 respondents 140 male and 60 female with a ratio of

Table No.4.2

Information Needs of faculties

Category	Academic work	writing paper	Research	Updating Knowledge	Total
College	100	50	20	30	200

The above table reflects that most faculty members needed information for academic work 100, writing papers it came to 50, updating knowledge for 30, 20 for research works. the contrasting feature in regard to information need between maximum faculties needed information for academic work.

Table No.4.3

Access Points: Faculties Members

Category	College Library	Uni. Library	Internet Info. Center	Total
College	150	10	30	200

The faculties are requested to indicate their access points with regard to the category provided in the questionnaire as to college library, University library, internet, information center, in case of college faculties in spite of the poor collection they used their libraries as a main source of access points amounting for 150, internet 30, next come university library with 10, and information center with 10 faculties.

Table No.4.4

Use of IT : Faculties members

<u>IT Awarness</u>	<u>Faculties</u>
	Yes 200 (100%)
Computer	No 0 (0%)
	Yes 150 (75%)

<u>Internet</u>	No	50 (25%)
	Yes	120 (60%)
<u>E-journal</u>	No	80 (40%)
	Yes	120 (60%)
<u>Digital Resource</u>	No	80 (40%)

IT awareness of the faculties. The Response showed that of the college faculties were of the computer handling with 100%, for Internet it was 75%, E-journals with 60%, and digital resource 60%.

7. IMPLIED SUGGESTIONS

1. It is also suggested considering availability of computing facilities web-based training and e-learning to help those for better utilization, cost effectiveness and measurability.
2. The present study has seriously considered the lack of proper infrastructure at the college libraries faculty members are deprived of getting resources/services, this will lead to the decline in the quality education; hence it urges that the state government to lift the ban on appointment of the staff and special consideration should be given for the development of infrastructure of the libraries.
3. Library professionals should themselves join hands to come forward to improve the standard of the library education and library services with the help of emerging ICT application.
4. As such situation demands, the faculties should be given instructional skills in the use of digital measures.

8. CONCLUSION

The librarian as an educator has an important role to play in influencing the education standard. His personal capabilities, character, academic and technical abilities and his human approach are deciding factors for the success of any educational efforts.

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