
**Information Needs and Seeking Behaviour of
Research Scholars Of National Institute in
Nutrition (NIN) & Centre For Cellular Molecular
Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad**

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Abstract

This study investigates the information seeking behavior of research Scholars of NIN& CCMB.. The Population of the study was the full time research Scholars of NIN& CCMB, Hyderabad. A structured questionnaire was used for data gathering in the University. the major information need of faculty members is academic and research need, the research also showed that faculties demand for information via google and other online sources. Poor internet facilities, irregular power supply, poor searching skills, lack of time, while some faculty members said they are not satisfied with the materials in the library were found as factors affecting the information seeking behaviour of respondents. And also focused on faculty recommendations for the improvement of library facilities in Research Institutions also discussed.

Keywords

Research Scholars ; Information Seeking Behavior;
Information needs; NIN, CCMB.

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Introduction

Knowledge generated by user studies can help to develop information systems and information services. *Information need and information seeking behavior*, two of the most important research areas of the user studies, are two complementary concepts which are affected by many factors. Research results in these areas of user studies indicate that information need and information seeking behavior of scholars vary from one discipline to another. Such different needs and behaviors necessitate to offer different services in academic libraries depending on the academic disciplines scholars come from. Bruce (2005) states that, "information plays a significant role in our daily professional and personal lives and we are constantly challenged to take charge of the information that we need for work, fun and everyday decisions and tasks". Wilson (2000) posited that information needs are influenced by a variety of factors such as the range of information sources available, the uses to which the information will be put, the background, motivation, professional orientation and individual characteristics of the user. According to the free dictionary (2012), a faculty member is an educator who works at a college or university. The need for the improvement in the quality of education has become apparent in Nigeria in the higher educational sector. The advent of information communication technologies has brought about the influx of information in diverse formats, which has affected largely the information seeking behaviour of academics in institutions of higher learning. Information is a vital resource for societal development. It is an indispensable raw material for right decision making from governmental level to the personal level. Information is one of the several basic resources that is needed and utilized by human being for their development and prosperity. It is a dynamic, vast and exhaustive resource that affects all disciplines and all peoples. Information is considered as basic components of all human activities. It is necessary to know the different aspects of their information seeking behavior what information need, how they search information, what sources they consult and so on.

Review of Literature

Nisha and Varghese, Rekha Rani (2016) investigated the information seeking efficiency of agricultural scientists working in the research institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Kerala. A structured questionnaire was distributed to

explore the information seeking efficiency of agricultural scientists in the digital environment. Data collected were analyzed using the SPSS 21. The present study revealed that agricultural scientists are using simple search option than advanced search option to retrieve information from the digital sources. Nazan Ozenc Ucak and S.Serap Kurbanoglu (2000) examined an outcome of the research study conducted by the authors on information seeking behavior of undergraduate students of Knowledge generated by user studies can help to develop information systems and information services.. Research results in these areas of user studies indicate that the type of information need and information seeking behavior of scholars are dependent on their field of research, and vary from one discipline to another . Akhilesh K.S. Yadav & Pradeep Kumar Singh (2016) surveyed was conducted to look more closely at specific areas of the study for an in-depth examination of trends and patterns in seeking information. This study can be helpful for students as well as for teachers, librarians and mentors who provide information to the students and researchers. Adebowale Akinwonjo Akinade Anyim Obinna Anyim (2016) examined the Information needs and seeking behaviour of masters student at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria using Elis information seeking behaviour model. The results indicated that major information needs of masters students at the faculty of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria is for academic purpose and the masters and their primary purpose of seeking for information is for their reading activities. Geetha(2004) in her study on the information needs and information-gathering behavior of research scholars in the Pure Science departments of the University of Kerala found that the collection of reference sources, indexing and abstracting sources, as well as computer-based information sources in the Kerala University library system was only partially adequate to meet research scholars' needs

Scope of the study

The Present study *Information needs & seeking behavior of Research Scholars of NIN & CCMB, Hyderabad*. The study covers of National Research Institutions NIN & CCMB in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Objectives of the Study

The present study on “*Information needs & seeking behavior of Research Scholars of NIN &*

CCMB, Hyderabad” will enable libraries deliver standard services, which will improve the searching skills, teaching and research output of academics in the community.

To attain this goal, the study stipulated the following objectives:

- To find out the sources of information Research Scholars are familiar with
- To discover their information needs of Research Scholars
- To determine their information demand and use of Research Scholars
- To establish the problems that Research Scholars encounter in information seeking

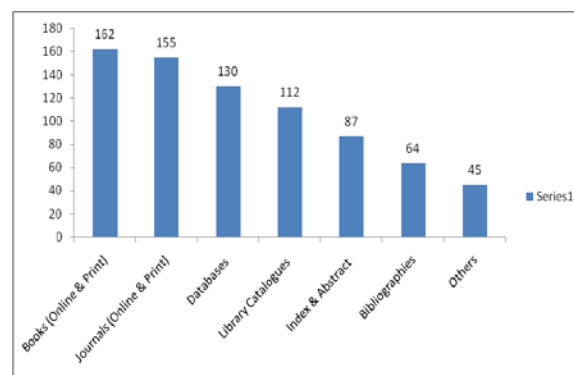
METHODOLOGY

A Survey research method was used to carry out this study because of its large population in National Research Institutions. The instrument used for data collection in this study was questionnaire. Questionnaires was used for collecting data for this research The target population of this study comprises the academic research Scholars of NIN & CCMB , Hyderabad, Telangana . The total population of the study was 200 Research Scholars of NIN & CCMB .Questionnaires was administered to all 200 Research Scholars and there was 90% response rate.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

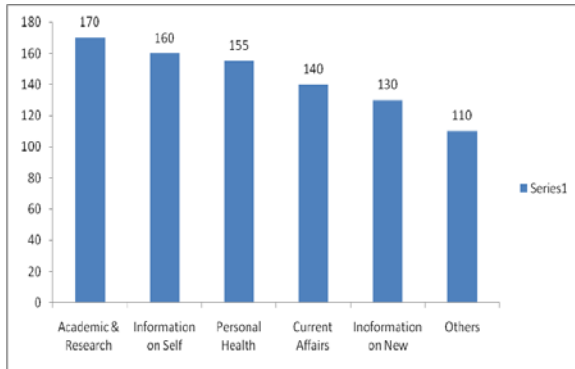
Out of the 200 copies of the questionnaire that were administered to the Research Scholars NIN(90) and CCMB (90) total 180(90%) were retrieved. The data collected in the study is presented according to the objectives of the study.

Fig 1: Source of Information



As observed from **Fig 1**, 90% of respondents use books (print & online) 86% Journals (print & online), 732 databases, 62% library catalogue, 48.3% index & abstract, 35% bibliographies and 25% use other sources. Highest percentage i.e. 90% books and least 25% of other sources are available

Fig 2: Information Needs



As observed from **fig 2**, information needs of faculty members that (94%) is academic and research, 88% information on self-development, 86% personal health information, 77% current affairs, 72% information on new trends and 61% has other information needs. Highest percentage of information needs is academic and research and lowest is other information needs

Fig 3: Demand for information

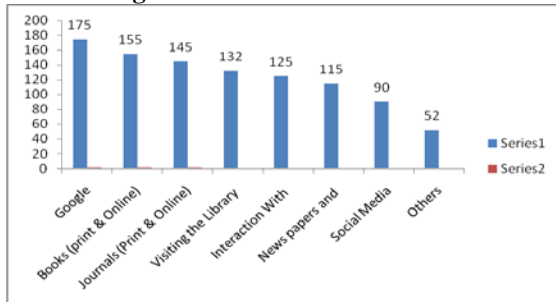


Figure 3 Demand for information from the respondents indicates that 97% of from google and other online sources, 86% from books (print and online), 80% journals (print & online), 73% from visiting the library, 69% interaction with colleagues, 63% from Newspaper and magazines, 50% from social media and 280% demand for information from other sources.

Fig 4: Factors affecting faculty members' information seeking behavior

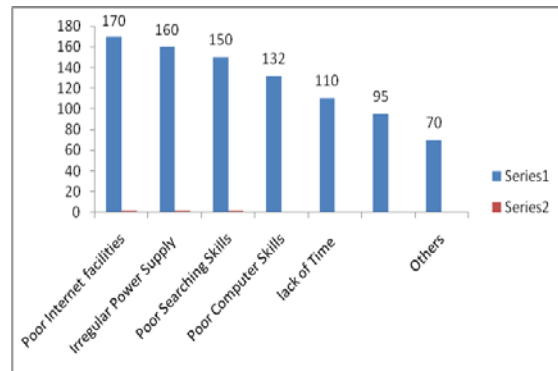


Fig 4 Factors affecting faculty members' information seeking behavior shows that, 94% poor internet facilities, 88% irregular power supply, 83% have poor searching skills, 73% poor computer skills, 61% lack of time, 52% of the respondents are not satisfied with the materials in the library and 38% other factors.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study in fig 1 indicated that books (Online and Print) were the most used sources of information seeking behavior of Research Scholars in NIN & CCMB, Hyderabad, Telangana. The finding that books as the most important information source for teaching and research. The findings in fig 2 shows that there is no significant difference between information needs of faculty members in NIN & CCMB in Hyderabad, Telangana i.e. 94% indicated academic and research while 88% of participants emphasis on self-development whereas 86% personal health information also, 77% current affairs while 72% information on new trends and 61% has other information needs.

The findings in fig 3 emphasis that, google and other online source were the most bases for information to meet their needs for their academic and research works.

The result from fig 4 reveals that, 94% of the participants identified poor internet facilities as a major challenge while 88% indicated irregular power supply, 83% emphasized poor searching skills whereas 73% identified poor computer skills, 61% lack of time while 52% of the

respondents are not satisfied with the materials in the library and 38% identified other.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is obvious that Research Scholars in NIN & CCMB in Hyderabad, Telangana know the importance of information, given the fact that a majority of them seek information to meet their academic and research needs, personal development, health needs and other information needs. In view of the foregoing, the following recommendations are made:

- The National Research Institution i.e. NIN & CCMB Libraries Resources should improve on its internet facilities to assist faculties in their search for information.
- The library should provide both online and offline databases for the consultation of faculties.
- The National Research Institution i.e. NIN & CCMB Libraries administration should provide more books (electronic and print) and journals (electronic and print) to aid faculties academic and research needs.
- Libraries should build collection according to their needs. It should be developed through effective collection development policies. Higher quality works should be included in the collection which will induce critical thinking and intellectual curiosity in the users. General books and periodicals should be kept in proportion. Recreational material should be taken into account during collection development. Reference books should be provided in reference section
- In house training should be conducted frequently for Research Scholars Research Scholars and to improve their computer skills.
- Since power supply is provided for Research Scholars during the official working hours, they should seek alternative power sources in their homes due to the epileptic power provided by the government.
- Research Scholars should be educated more on the importance and use of information in their academic and research work.
- Since it is obvious that faculty members need information for differs purposes, adequate time should be created to search for the required information to meet their needs.

- To cope with modern technologies and changing modes of users, libraries should opt for
- automation. This would make the services effective and efficient by improve quality and level of services. It would also be helpful in successful accomplishment of resource
- sharing programme.
- Since Research Scholars also seek information from friends and colleagues, they should always strive to have a cordial relationship with them.
- Today librarians are information managers, web designers and knowledge disseminators.
- Their attitude has great impacts on library users. Little rigidity in their behavior can
- discourage users. Therefore they should ensure enthusiasm, dedication and devotion with their professional duties.

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