A Study on Information Needs and Requirements among Students in Select Aided Colleges in Kerala

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Abstract

This paper discusses about the information needs and requirements among the students in select aided colleges in Kerala. The relevant data collected from the select aided colleges afflicted to M.G.University in Kerala. It found that the respondents have given first priority for the information type of 'Information about current developments in your field'. 'Information about previous work done in your field' and 'Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information' are the second and third preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the information type of 'Experimental designs, results and applications'.

INTRODUCTION

Information becomes necessary, like that of food, shelter and clothes, in day to day environment. Information seeking and needs differ from person to person. Naturally, seeking and utilizing information varying depending on the requirements. There have been significant differences in seeking of information for higher education or research oriented purpose than looking of information for definite purpose. There are enormous information resources available as on today especially in the digital environment. Information seeking behaviour and information needs are the fundamental areas of research in the digital environment. In higher education systems, there is a provision for making use of these resources available through library. It is necessary for the libraries to move towards digital resources which are more helpful for easy access. The following definitions apply in this study are either defined operationally or adapted from established definitions from authoritative sources. The Chen and Hernon (1982)[1] all knowledge, ideas, facts, data and imaginative works of mind which are communicated formally and/or informally in any format".From the above definition it can be inferred that Information is a stimulus that consists of all knowledge; ideas; facts; data and imaginative works of mind which reduces uncertainty that makes a difference to a conscious of human mind as a purely quantitative measure of communicative exchanges, in a formal and/or informal format that are amenable for the user in an environment. Wilson (1968)[2] stated the view that information need motivates. Information behaviour is an embedded assumption of the user oriented paradigm which focuses upon what people think, do and feel when they seek and use information.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mehra (2015)[3] recommends a socio-structural approach to address the health care issues in India. The information seeking Behaviour of patients is dependent on a number of factors. The results show that differences exist in the satisfaction of level of information seekers and non-seekers in that the non-seekers were less satisfied. Chandrashekara, M., Adithyakumari, H. & Mohan, B. S. (2016)[4] reveals that the library services in the VTU research center libraries is effective enough for their users. VTU research center libraries users were also effective with the existing printed journals, books, e-journals, thesis/dissertations/project resource, conference/ workshop/ seminars proceedings resources, abstracts,

indexing resources. These resources found to be around 50% effective and government publications, patents/standards resources, CD ROM database resources are ineffective in library services. Pradhan, B. (2017)[5] investigated of print and electronic information seeking behavior of dental students of Institute of Dental Sciences, SOA University. Information seeking behavior has gained momentum, especially after the radical change in the type of information Medias and the way access to them in various forms such as video, textual, audio and numerical information and is processed through the use of microelectronics and computers provided through internet. The study does not investigate the information seeking behavior of the dental student community as a whole. The results shows that most of the students of MDS and BDS seek information for preparing their class work, project work, for updating knowledge, for preparation of examination. Kaur, K., Kathuria, K. (2017)[6]. attempts to know the awareness and use of Information Communication Technology and the problems associated with its use in the university library. The findings of the study revealed that large number of the respondents were aware of ICTs use in the library. The internet was most extensively used for accessing e-journals followed by e-mail. Also, respondents preferred to access information both in print as well as in electronic formats.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of the study are as under:
1. To identify the gender and domicile wise distribution of the respondents.
2. To study type of information required by students
3. To identify the purposes of information needs and gathering activities

METHODOLOGY

This study attempts to report the findings of the Information Needs and Information Gathering Behaviour of College Students with Special Reference to Aided Colleges Affiliated to M. G. University, Kerala. The primary data was collected through questionnaires from the respondents. The data related the libraries directly collected from the Library professionals. Since this is a time-bound study at the state level, necessary mathematical and statistical methods and tools are applied.

The Distribution of Questionnaires among the respondents from the aided colleges of four districts with special reference to M.G.University, Kerala has been analyzed based on the opinions and it is shown in the table.1

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaires among the Respondents

Sl. No	Questionnaires Distributed	%	Questionnaires Received	%
1	1200	100	1068	89.00

Table 1 shows the distribution of questionnaires to the respondents from the aided colleges. Totally 1200 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents of Aided Colleges in three districts in Kerala. Out of 1200, 1068 replied after duly filled by the respondents. The response rate is 89.00%.

Table 2: Demographic Details of the Respondents

Sl. No	Demographic Details		Questionnaire Distributed	%	Questionnaire Received	%
1	Gender	Male	700	58.33	611	50.92
2		Female	500	41.67	457	38.08
3	Student	UG	725	60.42	625	52.08
4		PG	475	39.58	443	36.92
5	Domicile	Urban	650	54.17	594	49.50
6		Rural	550	45.83	474	39.50
		Total	1200	100.00	1068	89.00

From the table 2 shows Gender wise distribution of questionnaire to the respondents of aided colleges of four districts. From the 1200, 700(58.33%) questionnaire was issued to the male respondents and 500(41.67%) of the questionnaire was issued to the female respondents. Out of 1200, 1068 replied after duly filled by the respondents which comprises 611(50.92%) were from male respondents and

457(38.08%) were from female respondents. The response rate is 89.00%. Further the respondents were classified under their category. The respondents were categorized like Under Graduate students (U.G) and Post Graduate students (P.G). Among the 1200, 725(60.42%) of the questionnaires were distributed to Under Graduate students (U.G), 475(39.58%) of them were distributed to Post Graduate students (P.G). From the 1200, 625(52.08%) were filled and returned by the Under Graduate students (U.G) and 443(36.92%) were returned by the P.G. (Post Graduate) students. It is studied from the table the highest numbers of respondents were in the category of 'Under Graduate students (U.G)'.The respondents were classified under their Districts taken for the study. Random sampling method was adopted to distribute the questionnaires. Totally 1200 questionnaires were distributed equally to the respondents in aided colleges of Selected three districts which includes the District of Kottayam, Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta. It is revealed that the highest number of responses was received from Ernakulam. Further the respondents were classified under their Domicile. Among the 1200, 650(54.17%) of the questionnaires were distributed to the students those were living in Urban, 550(45.83%) of them were distributed to the students those were living in Rural. From the 1200, 594(49.50%) were filled and returned by the students in urban areas and 474(39.50%) were returned by the students in rural areas. It is studied from the table the highest numbers of respondents were in the Urban'.

Nature and type of information required

The study has been analysed the Nature and type of information required to gather Information among the aided college students. The five point scales of Not Required, Rarely Required, Based on Needs, Occasionally Required, Frequently required were used for the study. The Mean, Standard Deviation and their Rank for the Nature and type of information required to gather Information have been calculated and it is shown in the table 3

Table 3: Nature and type of information required

Sl. No	Types of Information	NR	RR	BN	OR	FR	M	Std. Dev	R
1	Review of literature	9 (0.84)	53 (4.96)	359 (33.61)	235 (22)	412 (38.58)	3.93	.996	8
2	Theoretical background/Basic scientific & Technical Information	7 (0.66)	86 (8.05)	286 (26.78)	220 (20.6)	469 (43.91)	3.99	1.044	4
3	Methods, processes and procedures	27 (2.53)	68 (6.37)	294 (27.53)	210 (19.66)	469 (43.91)	3.96	1.094	6
4	Experimental designs, results and applications	36 (3.37)	71 (6.65)	340 (31.84)	353 (33.05)	268 (25.09)	3.70	1.024	11
5	Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information	26 (2.43)	54 (5.06)	263 (24.63)	255 (23.88)	470 (44.01)	4.02	1.053	3
6	Information about previous work done in your field	17 (1.59)	51 (4.78)	284 (26.59)	213 (19.94)	503(47.1)	4.06	1.034	2
7	Information about current developments in your field	70 (6.55)	49 (4.59)	127 (11.89)	108 (10.11)	714 (66.85)	4.26	1.222	1
8	Standard and patent specifications and codes of practice	7 (0.66)	82 (7.68)	369 (34.55)	177 (16.57)	433 (40.54)	3.89	1.051	9
9	Statistical Information	8 (0.75)	72 (6.74)	389 (36.42)	212 (19.85)	387 (36.24)	3.84	1.019	10
10	Information about lab procedures	8 (0.75)	59 (5.52)	365 (34.18)	188 (17.6)	448 (41.95)	3.94	1.024	7
11	Scientific and Technical news	7 (0.66)	52 (4.87)	360 (33.71)	175 (16.39)	474 (44.38)	3.99	1.018	5

(NR- Not Required, RR- Rarely Required, BN- Based on Needs, OR-Occasionally Required, FR- Frequently Required)

It is identified from Table 3 that the respondents have given first priority for the information type of 'Information about current developments in your field'. 'Information about previous work done in your field' and 'Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information' are the second and third preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the information type of 'Experimental designs, results and applications'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.70 and 4.26. It can be inferred that all the eleven variables lies between 'Occasionally required' and 'Frequently required'. The deviation of opinion ranges between .996 and 1.222.

Nature and type of information required Vs Gender

The study has been further extended to Gender category for the Nature and type of information required to gather Information by the aided college students. The Mean, Standard Deviation and their Rank for the Nature and type of information required have been calculated and it is shown in the table 4.

Table 5: Nature and type of information required Vs Gender

Sl.	Types of Information	Male			Female			Chi-Square
		M	SD	R	M	SD	R	
1	Review of literature	3.83	1.053	8	4.05	.898	8	28.857
2	Theoretical background / Basic scientific and Technical Information	3.83	1.099	7	4.20	.926	7	39.680
3	Methods, processes and procedures	3.81	1.165	9	4.16	.954	3	32.764
4	Experimental designs, results and applications	3.54	1.057	11	3.92	.935	11	47.871
5	Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information	3.84	1.119	6	4.25	.906	2	44.031
6	Information about previous work done in your field	3.99	1.097	1	4.16	.934	4	18.025
7	Information about current developments in your field	3.97	1.400	2	4.65	.777	1	105.256
8	Standard and patent specifications and codes of practice	3.86	1.097	5	3.92	.987	10	22.467
9	Statistical Information	3.77	1.052	10	3.93	.969	9	17.581
10	Information about lab procedures	3.87	1.076	4	4.04	.942	8	31.424
11	Scientific and Technical news	3.95	1.065	3	4.04	.950	7	23.354

(M-Mean, SD-Standard Deviation, R-Rank, Degrees of Freedom: 4, Table Value: 9.488)

It can be inferred from Table 5 that the Male respondents have given first priority for the information type of 'Information about previous work done in your field'. 'Information about current developments in your field' and 'Scientific and Technical news' are the second and third preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the information type of 'Experimental designs, results and applications'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.54 and 3.99. It can be inferred that all the eleven variables lies on 'Occasionally required'. The deviation of opinion ranges between 1.052 and 1.400. In the case of Female respondents, that they have given first priority for the information type of 'Information about current developments in your field'. 'Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information' and 'Methods, processes and procedures' are the second and third preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the information type of 'Experimental designs,

results and applications'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.92 and 4.65. It can be inferred that all the eleven variables lies between 'Occasionally required' and 'Frequently required'. The deviation of opinion ranges between .777 and .987. Further, Chi square has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 5. The table value is 9.488 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value of all the variables were higher than the table value which indicated the variables are highly significant in their opinion between the Gender categories of Male and Female towards the Nature and type of information required to gather the information.

Nature and type of information required Vs Student

The study has been further extended to student category for the Nature and type of information required to gather Information by the aided college

students. The Mean, Standard Deviation and their Rank for the Nature and type of information required

have been calculated and it is shown in the table 6.

Table 6: Nature and type of information required Vs Student

Sl. No	Types of Information	UG			PG			Chi-Square
		M	**SD**	**R**	**M**	**SD**	**R**	
1	Review of literature	3.70	.978	8	4.24	.932	6	88.788
2	Theoretical background / Basic scientific and Technical Information	3.81	1.077	7	4.25	.936	5	72.766
3	Methods, processes and procedures	3.77	1.126	5	4.23	.985	7	61.570
4	Experimental designs, results and applications	3.65	1.083	11	3.76	.933	11	34.885
5	Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information	3.81	1.098	3	4.31	.909	4	88.043
6	Information about previous work done in your field	3.87	1.077	2	4.33	.905	2	75.319
7	Information about current developments in your field	4.05	1.359	1	4.55	.924	1	46.400
8	Standard and patent specifications and codes of practice	3.71	1.017	8	4.13	1.051	9	68.313
9	Statistical Information	3.65	.966	10	4.11	1.034	10	83.235
10	Information about lab procedures	3.74	1.008	8	4.23	.974	8	72.849
11	Scientific and Technical news	3.76	1.015	7	4.31	.935	3	83.023

(M-Mean, SD-Standard Deviation, R-Rank, Degrees of Freedom: 4, Table Value: 9.488)

It is can be seen from Table 6 that the respondents in the category of UG have given first priority for the information type of 'Information about current developments in your field'. 'Information about previous work done in your field' and 'Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information' are the second and third preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the information type of 'Experimental designs, results and applications'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.65 and 4.05. It can be inferred that all the eleven variables lies between 'Occasionally required' and 'Frequently required'. The deviation of opinion ranges between .966 and 1.359. The respondents in the category of PG have given first priority for the information type of 'Information about current developments in your field'. 'Information about previous work done in your field' and 'Scientific and Technical news' are the second and third preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the information type of 'Experimental designs, results and applications'. The mean value of all the variables

ranges between 3.65 and 4.05. It can be inferred that all the eleven variables lies between 'Occasionally required' and 'Frequently required'. The deviation of opinion ranges between .905 and 1.051. Further, Chi square has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 6. The table value is 9.488 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value of all the variables were higher than the table value which indicated the variables are highly significant in their opinion between the student categories of UG and PG towards the Nature and type of information required to gather the information.

Nature and type of information required Vs Domicile

The study has been further extended to Domicile category for the Nature and type of information required to gather Information by the aided college students. The Mean, Standard Deviation and their Rank for the Nature and type of information required have been calculated and it is shown in the table 7.

Table 7: Nature and type of information required Vs Domicile

Sl. No	Types of Information	Urban			Rural			Chi-Square
		M	**SD**	**R**	**M**	**SD**	**R**	
1	Review of literature	3.99	.985	9	3.85	1.004	9	7.214
2	Theoretical background / Basic scientific and Technical Information	4.07	.988	4	3.90	1.103	6	25.997

3	Methods, processes and procedures	4.01	1.080	6	3.90	1.108	5	15.642
4	Experimental designs, results and applications	3.68	1.016	11	3.73	1.035	11	17.453
5	Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information	4.09	.988	3	3.93	1.124	4	23.068
6	Information about previous work done in your field	4.11	.967	2	4.01	1.110	2	15.362
7	Information about current developments in your field	4.15	1.291	1	4.40	1.116	1	20.043
8	Standard and patent specifications and codes of practice	3.92	1.052	9	3.85	1.050	9	5.388
9	Statistical Information	3.86	1.028	10	3.82	1.010	10	2.756
10	Information about lab procedures	4.01	1.002	8	3.86	1.045	8	6.607
11	Scientific and Technical news	4.02	1.006	5	3.95	1.032	3	5.959

(M-Mean, SD-Standard Deviation, R-Rank, Degrees of Freedom: 4, Table Value: 9.488)

It is identified from Table 7 that the respondents in Urban have given first priority for the information type of 'Information about current developments in your field'. 'Information about previous work done in your field' and 'Product, material equipment and apparatus know how information' are the second and third preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the information type of 'Experimental designs, results and applications'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.68 and 4.15. It can be inferred that all the eleven variables lies on 'Occasionally required' and 'Frequently required'. The deviation of opinion ranges between .967 and 1.080. In the case of the respondents in Rural have given first priority for the information type of 'Information about current developments in your field'. 'Information about previous work done in your field' and 'Scientific and Technical news' are the second and third preference given by the respondents. The least preference was given for the information type of 'Experimental designs, results and applications'. The mean value of all the variables ranges between 3.73 and 4.40. It can be inferred that all the eleven variables lies on 'Occasionally required' and 'Frequently required'. The deviation of opinion ranges between 1.004 and 1.124. Further, Chi square has been administered to identify the significance. The calculated value has been shown in Table 7 The table value is 9.488 at 5% level of significance, the calculated value for most of the variables were higher than the table value which indicated the variables are highly significant in their opinion between the Domicile category of Rural and Urban towards the Nature and type of information required to gather the information except the variables of 'Review of literature', 'Standard and patent specifications and codes of practice', 'Statistical Information', 'Information about lab procedures' and 'Scientific and Technical news'.

CONCLUSION

The academic libraries play the vital role to the development of higher educational institutions. Now a days the student communities are needed more information's not only the academic purposes but they using the routine in their day to day life.

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