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## Use of Information Resources by the Law College Library Users in Mysore, Karnataka

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### Abstract

*The study aims to examine the use of information resources by the users of law college libraries in Mysore. The questionnaire was used as the main research instrument. 200 questionnaires were distributed to the library users; the return rate was 80%. The major findings were that there is high level of availability of information sources in the selected law college libraries. Majority of the respondents used information sources daily; service provider in the library, working hours and library buildings are convenient. 70(43.75%) of the respondents use the text books very frequently. All of the respondents use text books and 150 (93.75) of the respondents use reference books. It is felt that proper guidance is provided to help library users to meet their information needs and make users aware of the available library resources and services.*

### Keywords

Information resources; Library resources;  
Information use; Law college libraries;  
Users study

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## INTRODUCTION

Information and knowledge have played a key role in the development of various societies and civilizations. As a matter of fact, it has been said that information has a synergising effect in several areas of human activities, political, economic, educational, social and technological. A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. Any academic law library is supposed to have a comprehensive collection of legislation, case law, legal textbooks and academic law journals. Since law is the most volatile subject and its literature is exploding it is difficult to control in paper format has come quite handy to librarians as well as to users. A significant development which took place in legal studies is increasing use of electronic journals and databases. The proper utilization of library resources can be optimally used only by attracting the users to the library (Sriram and Rajev 2014).

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ikolo (2015) examined user's satisfaction with library services: a case study of Delta State University Library. It was discovered that library users were not satisfied with the various services providing by the library. It was also seen that library users were not satisfied with the existing textbooks available on shelves, Internet services, newspapers/ magazines, journals and the inability to borrow books from the library. Wallis and Korodia (2014) study shows the level of user satisfaction of library opening hours, library registration, duration of loan services and available resources such as books and journals, was generally high. It was found that access to electronic resource databases and quality of photocopy services was also high. It can be seen from the study that, there is need to provide high quality services to library users. This encourages users to use the library for their information needs. Saikia and Gohain (2013) investigation of use of library resources, user's satisfaction in library resources and services and information seeking behaviors of the students and research scholars of Tezpur University. It is felt that user guidance is necessary to help library users to meet their information needs and make users aware of the available library resources and services.

Sohail et al. (2012) studied the use of library resources by the students of University of Kalyani. Authors found that guidance in the use of library resources and services was necessary to help students

to meet their information needs. They also found that journals, text book and lecture notes were the most popular sources of information for the students. They suggested that the latest edition of text books and reference materials should be added to the library collection and users should be guided to use the resources of the library. Ranganathan and Babu (2012) studied the awareness and use of library resources and services at Osmania University, Hyderabad. They studied the adequacy of library resources, opinion on e-resources or print sources, reasons for using e-resources and satisfaction in sources of information provision. Biradar et al. (2009) conducted a survey of the students of Agriculture Science College, Shimoga to ascertain the use of information sources and services of the college library. 72.27% of users were using lending service and among them 54.79% were satisfied. The services like SDI, ILL, CD Rom search etc. were fairly used, while non documentary sources were less used. Authors concluded with the urgent need to establish e-consortia model among agriculture libraries in India.

Adithya Kumari and Talawar (2009) have conducted a study to assess the extent of use of reference sources in university libraries. Survey revealed a growing interest in reference sources among users in university libraries. A small percentage of users made use of bibliographies and directories as compared to the use of dictionaries, encyclopedia and yearbooks. Harinarayana et al. (2008) ascertained that majority of the users were visiting libraries to study in library and for borrowing books. The text book service was the most highly sought service. Author concluded that libraries were lacking behind to provide specific information. Ahmad and Haridasan (2006) undertook a study on use of periodicals by the scholars at National Library of Veterinary Sciences. It was found that majority of the users were visiting library daily and used back volumes of periodicals for research purpose. Majority of the users were satisfied with arrangement of current issues of periodicals and arrangement of back volumes.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are:

1. To assess the adequacy, availability and accessibility of library collection in law college library.

2. To examine their awareness and satisfaction with regard to information sources and services available in law college library.
3. To know the use and awareness of electronic information resources among the users.
4. To find out the frequency of use of information resources.
5. To find out the problems faced by the users while using resources.
6. To make suggestions for betterment of information sources and services in libraries.

## METHODOLOGY

The survey method was used in the present study. Questionnaire as a tool was used to collect data from the library users. In total 200 questionnaires were distributed to the library users of four law colleges in Mysore. The investigators received 160 questionnaires. Among the library users the study is limited to the students only. After collecting data required for the study, it was analysed and interpreted in the form of tables.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

**Table 1:** Gender-wise distribution of the respondents

Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
Male	110	68.75
Female	50	31.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table indicates that out of 160 respondents, 110(68.75%) of the respondents were male, 50(31.25%) were female respondents.

**Table 2:** Age-wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No	Age group	No. of respondents	%
1	Below 20 years	32	20.00
2	21-23 years	42	26.25
3	24-26 years	25	15.63
4	27-29 years	21	13.13
5	30-33 years	20	12.50
6	34 and above	20	12.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table 2 shows the distribution of the respondents by their age. It is clear from the table that,

42(26.25%) of the respondents were in the age group of 21-23. followed by 32(20%) of respondents were in the age group of below 20, 25(15.63%) of respondents were in the age group of 24- 26, 21(13.13%) respondents were in the age group of 27-29 and 20(12.50) of respondents each were age group of 30-33 and 34 and above.

**Table 3:** College wise distribution of respondents

Sl. No	Name of the colleges	Questionnaires Distributed	Questionnaires Received	%
1	S.B.R.R. Mahajana Law College	50	43	86.00
2	J.S.S Law College	50	46	92.00
3	Saradavilas Law College	50	36	72.00
4	Vidyavardaka Law College	50	35	70.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>80.00</b>

It is found from the table-3 that, the investigators distributed 50 questionnaires each among users of four law colleges in Mysore. There are 46(92%) responses received from J.S.S. Law College, followed by 43(86%) are from S.B.R.R. Mahajana Law College, 36(72%) are from Saradavilas Law College and 35(70%) are from Vidyavardaka Law College. The highest responses were from the J.S.S. Law College.

**Table 4:** Frequency of library visit

Sl. No	Frequency	No. of respondents	%
1	Daily	137	85.65
2	Twice a week	11	6.88
3	Weekly	8	5.00
4	Monthly	3	1.85
5	occasionally	1	0.62
<b>Total</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 4 reveals that 137(85.65%) respondents have the habit of visiting the library daily, 11(6.88 %) respondents visit the library twice a week, very few respondents 8(5.00%) indicated that they visit the library monthly, and 1 (0.625%) respondent visit the library occasionally.

**Table 5:** Users opinion about convenience of library working hours

Library working hours	Respondents	%
Convenient	150	93.75
Not Convenient	10	6.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100</b>

The table 5 shows that, 150(93.75%) respondents opined that the library working hours is convenient for them whereas 10(6.25%) opined it is not convenient for them.

**Table 6:** Users opinion on location of library building

Sl. No	Location of library building	No. of respondents	%
1	Convenient	120	75.00
2	Manageable	40	25.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table 6 shows that, 120 (75%) of the respondents opined that the location of library building is convenient and 40 (25%) of the respondents expressed that the location of the library is manageable. It is also found from the study that, all the respondents says the library information resources are adequate for them.

**Table 7:** Preferred language of the information sources

Sl. No	Language	Respondents	%
1	Kannada	40	25.00
2	English	70	43.75
3	Both Kannada and English	50	31.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table 7 shows that, 70(43.75%) of the respondents were prefer to use English language, 50(31.25%) of respondents were prefer to use both Kannada and English languages and 40 (25%) of respondents were prefer to use Kannada.

**Table 8:** Users preferences over Printed vs.Electronic resources

Sl. No	User preferences	Respondents	%
1	Printed resources only	60	37.50
2	Electronic resources only	0	0.00
3	Both Print and Electronic	100	62.50

<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>
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The table 8 shows that, 60 (37.50%) respondents opined that they use only printed information resources and 100(62.60%) of the respondents expressed that they use both print & electronic resources in their libraries.

**Table 9:** Frequency of use of Information resources

Sl. No	Information resources	Very frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Not at all	Undecided
1	Textbooks	70 (43.75%)	60 (37.50%)	20 (12.50%)	10 (6.25%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
2	Reference books	80 (50.00%)	60 (37.50%)	10 (6.25%)	10 (6.25%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
3	Journals	19 (11.88%)	50 (31.25%)	28 (17.50%)	7 (4.38%)	7 (4.38%)	2 (1.25%)
4	Newspapers	54 (33.75%)	62 (38.75%)	6 (3.75%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
5	Magazines	25 (15.63%)	52 (32.50%)	26 (16.25%)	7 (4.38%)	5 (3.13%)	3 (1.88%)
6	Law reports	30 (18.75%)	65 (40.63%)	38 (23.75%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
7	Government publications	24 (15.00%)	57 (35.63%)	51 (31.88%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (5.00%)	0 (0.00%)
8	Legal / law digests	22 (13.75%)	60 (37.50%)	32 (20.00%)	10 (6.25%)	6 (3.75%)	7 (4.38%)
9	Decrees	13 (8.13%)	17 (10.63%)	48 (30.00%)	12 (7.50%)	10 (6.25%)	13 (8.13%)
10	Electronic databases	25 (15.63%)	20 (12.50%)	10 (6.25%)	5 (3.13%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
11	Websites	22 (13.75%)	55 (34.38%)	41 (25.63%)	15 (9.38%)	9 (5.63%)	5 (3.13%)

The table 9 shows how often students use the information sources. There are 80(50%) and 70 (43.75%) respondents are very frequently use reference books and text books. Followed by this, 50(31.25) respondents use journals, 62(38.75%) of them use newspapers, 52 (32.50%) of them use magazines, 65(40.63%) of them use law reports, 57(35.63%) of them use government publications, 60 (37.50%) of them use legal/law digests, and 55(34.38%) of them use websites frequently.

Table 10 shows the different types of reference sources used by the students. It is observed from the table, 146(91.25%) of respondents use dictionaries, 140(87.50%) of them use handbooks & manuals, 85

(53.13%) of them use encyclopedias, 75(46.88%) of them use yearbooks, 70(43.75%) of them use gazetteers, 50(31.25%) of them use abstracting sources, 43(26.88%) of them use indexing sources, 37(23.13%) of them each of respondents use of

biographical sources & directories, 30 (18.75%) of them use bibliographies, 28(17.50%) of them use maps globes and atlases, and 21(13.13%) of them use almanacs for reference sources.

**Table 10:** Use of reference sources

Sl. No	Type of Reference sources	No. of respondents N=160	%
1.	Dictionaries	146	91.25
2.	Handbooks & manuals	140	87.50
3.	Encyclopedias	85	53.13
4.	Yearbooks	75	46.88
5.	Gazetteers	70	43.75
6.	Abstracting sources	50	31.25
7.	Biographical sources	37	23.13
8.	Directories	37	23.13
9.	Bibliographies	30	18.75
10.	Geographical sources (Maps, atlases, globes, etc.)	28	17.50
11.	Almanacs	21	13.13

It is clear from the study that, the use of bibliographies, maps, globes, atlases and almanacs is very slight in comparison to dictionaries, handbooks, manuals, encyclopedia and yearbooks.

**Table 11:** Sources of guidance received on information resources

Sl. No	Information resources	No. of respondents N=160	%
1.	Guidance from their friend	100	62.50
2.	Through Internet or Institution Website	90	56.25
3.	Self taught by visiting library	78	48.75
4.	Guidance from library staff /Librarian	67	41.88
5.	Guidance from teacher	62	38.75
6.	Guidance from other staff	60	37.50

The table11 shows that, 100(62.50%) of the respondents express that they take guidance from their friends in learning about various information sources. Followed by 90 (56.25%) of the respondents are through Internet or institution websites, 78 (48.75%) of the respondents are self taught by visiting the library, 67(41.88%) of the respondents are received guidance from library staff/ librarian, 62 (38.75%) of respondents got guidance from teachers, and 60 (37.50%) of respondents got guidance from

other staff about learning various information sources.

**Table 12:** Reasons for difficulty in locating information resources

Sl. No	Reasons	No. of respondents N=160	%
1.	The height of racks hinders browsing of books	55	34.38
2.	Books relating to my subject are scattered in the library	36	22.50
3.	Poor shelf arrangement	32	20.00
4.	Books are kept under lock	30	18.75
5.	Books are misplaced	20	12.50
6.	Lack of assistance from the library staff in locating the reading materials	18	11.25
7.	The classification scheme followed by the library is not understandable	15	9.38
8.	Lack of light and ventilation in the stack room	13	8.13
9.	Narrow passage between the racks hinders free movement	13	8.13

The table 12 shows that, out of 160 users, there are 55 (34.38%) of respondents opine that the height of racks hinders browsing of books, 36 (22.50%) of them opined that books relating to my subject are scattered in the library, 32 (20%) of them opine that poor shelf arrangement is reasons for difficulty in location information resources in library and 30(18.75%) of them opine that books are kept under lock, 20(12.50%) of them opine that books are misplaced, 18(11.25%) of them opine that lack of assistance from the library staff in locating the reading materials, 15 (9.38%) of them opine that the classification scheme followed by the library is not understandable, and 13(8.13%) each of them opine that lack of light and ventilation in the stack room and narrow passage between the racks hinders free movement.

### FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The major findings of the study are:

1. The major finding of the study shows that the majority of the users frequently visit the library almost daily.
2. All of the respondents opined that their library has adequate resources for their use.

3. The investigator observed that most of the users are of the opinion that they are satisfied with library working hours and library building.
4. Among the reference sources Majority (146; 91.25%) of respondents use dictionaries.
5. Majority (100; 62.50%) of the respondents express that they take guidance from their friends in learning about various information sources.
6. There are 55 (34.38%) of the respondents opine that the height of racks hinders browsing of books.

### SUGGESTIONS

1. The respondents suggested that they need more number of both print and electronic forms of resources in the libraries.
2. Internet facility should be improved in the college libraries for easy access.
3. WebOPAC facility should be given to users.
4. Law libraries have to take steps to arrange various training and orientation programmes for users to use the availability of e-resources.

### CONCLUSION

The law college libraries always should have very good information resources to cater the needs of its users. They need nascent information in their filed to study the various judgments of the cases. In this regard the Supreme Court databases will help much. The present study reveals that even though adequate information resources are available in libraries the frequency of use of the electronic databases and decrees are low. Perhaps it may be due to lack of awareness among students about these resources. Therefore it seems essential to focus on user orientation programmes. It is felt that user guidance is necessary to help library users to meet their information needs and make users aware of the available library resources and services.

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