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## Information Acquisition and Retrieval Habits among Children's in Districts Central Libraries in Tamil Nadu

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#### Abstract

*This paper discusses about the information access and retrieval by the childrens in District Central Libraries in Tamil Nadu. Further, the opinioin collected by using interview schedule and analyses were made. It found that the preference of news papers for more information seeking opinioned by the respondents in District Central Libraries among Children from rural, 8.65 percent were preferred 'English', 62.71 percent were preferred 'other languages'. In Female, 23.44 percent were preferred 'Tamil', 26.25 percent were 'English' and 9.27 percent were preferred 'other languages'. Male respondents, 45(4.69%) were visit 'Daily', 18.23 percent were 'once in a week' and 16.15 percent were opinioned 'twice in a week'..*

#### Keywords

Children's; District Central Library; information Access; Information Retrieval

#### Electronic access

The journal is available at [www.jalis.in](http://www.jalis.in)



Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science  
ISSN: 2277-2219 Vol. 7. No.2. 2018. pp.194-200

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Information becomes necessary, as like that of food, shelter and clothes, in day to day environment. Information seeking and needs differs 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. In the context of faculty as a seeker of information, especially, in technical education, information seeking behavior gains significance since it is the driving force to achieve excellence empirically and cognitively in academic, placements, research and social needs. In academic life, the faculty is filled with information through libraries, classroom lectures and notes, internet, media and friends.

The libraries in technical institutions play a pivotal role in providing information related to academic, placement, research and general aspects. They provide various resources such as books, periodicals, back volumes, patents, standards, projects, thesis, newspapers etc. Libraries facilitate access to these resources through print, digital and visual modes. In the current educational scenario, more number of engineering institutions are being opened in India in general and Tamilnadu in particular that attract thousands of faculty towards technical education. In this juncture, it becomes important to examine the quality of these faculty and to ensure that they come out either as a quality technical man power, or best academic achiever or distinguished innovator or a perfect human.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sahu, Hemant and Nath (2013)<sup>1</sup> studied the information seeking behavior and needs of Indian astronomy academics, including the relationship between various variables such as academic, rank-wise statuses, age-wise of characteristics, and methods for keeping their

knowledge up-to-date. To continue accessing specialized needs to find innovative solutions. There are challenges and opportunities for exciting new initiatives. Kim and Yeon (2014)<sup>2</sup> studied research trends in teens, the health information behaviour of teens has been examined more frequently since the mid-2000s. Its interdisciplinary nature was evidently shown from various disciplines that there should be efforts to reflect new technology tools, apply mixed methods and increase the engagement level of collaboration to evolve this research domain. Tury et al. (2015)<sup>3</sup> surveyed Information Seeking Behaviour of Distance Learners the main survey gained responses from 649 students, in 81 countries and following diverse study programmes, study being most significant. Ease and speed of access and familiarity of sources were predominant factors. An extension of Wilson's information behaviour model is proposed to cater for the specific features of the distance learning context. Chung and Yoon (2015)<sup>4</sup> examined the international Students' Information Needs and Uses, Focusing on information behaviours in the context of everyday life, to explore the information needs and uses of international students--one of the fastest-growing student groups within the university--in their daily activities. This information sources and digital devices depending on the type of information needs. The findings provide useful insights into the information services available to international students in a higher education context.

### 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are

- To identify the zone wise District Central library in Tamil Nadu
- To know the frequency of visit by children in District Central library
- To identify the information sources and services in the libraries

### 4. METHODOLOGY

The literature on information acquisition and retrieval habits of children utilizing districts central libraries in Tamil Nadu has been studied and reviewed, which facilitated the construction of interview schedule. A interview was constructed based on the review of literature. The opinions were obtained in five point

scale wherever applicable, in order to elicit the information acquisition and retrieval habits of children utilizing districts central libraries in Tamil Nadu. The interview schedules were administered among the children of District Central Libraries. Totally 960 interview schedule were collected from 32 districts. Among the 32 districts, Central zone comprises of 8 districts, west zone comprises 8 districts, North zone comprises 7 districts and the south zone comprises 9 districts.

## 5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 5.1. Sample Size

The Distribution of Questionnaires among the users in District Central Libraries in Tamil Nadu has been analyzed based on the opinions and it is shown in the table.4.1.

**Table 1:** Demographic Details of the respondents

Sl. No	Description	No. of respondents	%	
1	Gender	Male	551	57.4
2		Female	409	42.6
3	Domicile	Rural	394	41.0
4		Urban	566	59.0

From the table 1 shows Gender wise distribution of questionnaire to the respondents in District Central Libraries in TamilNadu. From the 960, 551(57.4%) Schedule interview was conducted from the male respondents and 409(42.6%) of the questionnaire were from the female respondents. Further the respondents were classified under their domicile. Among the 960, 394(41%) of them were from rural and 566(59%) were from urban.

### 5.2 Frequency of Visit to the District Central library

The Frequency of Visit to the District Central library to access and use information among the respondents has been analyses based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 2

**Table 2:** Frequency of Visit to the District Central library

Sl. No	Frequency	Gender		Domicile		Total
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
1	Daily	45 (4.69)	19 (1.98)	29 (3.02)	35 (3.65)	64 (6.67)
2	Once in a week	175 (18.23)	127 (13.23)	132 (13.75)	170 (17.71)	302 (31.46)
3	Twice in a week	155 (16.15)	123 (12.81)	116 (12.08)	162 (16.88)	278 (28.96)
4	Monthly	161 (16.77)	133 (13.85)	106 (11.04)	188 (19.58)	294 (30.63)
5	Rarely	15 (1.56)	7 (0.73)	11 (1.15)	11 (1.15)	22 (2.29)

(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)

It is revealed from the table 2 shows that the Frequency of visit to the library among the respondents in District Central Library services with their category of the Gender. The frequency was categories as follows: Daily, Weekly, Twice in a week, Monthly and Rarely. From the category of Male respondents, 45(4.69%) were visit 'Daily', 175(18.23%) were 'once in a week' and 155(16.15%) were opinioned 'twice in a week'. In Female, 123(12.81%) were opinioned 'Twice in a week', 133(13.85%) were opinioned 'Monthly'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 175(18.23%) were visit the library 'Daily'.

Followed by, the Frequency of visit to the library among the respondents in District Central Library services analyzed with their category of the Domicile. From the category of rural, 29(3.02%) were visit 'Daily', 132(13.75%) were 'once in a week' and 106(11.04%) were opinioned 'monthly'. In urban, 162(16.88%) were opinioned 'Twice in a week', 188(19.58%) were opinioned 'Monthly' and 11(1.15%) were opinioned 'rarely'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of urban 188(19.58%) were visit the library 'Monthly'

### 5.3. Time spent in the library in single visit

The Time spent in the library in single visit to access and use information among the respondents has been analyses based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 3.

**Table 3:** Time spent in the library in single visit

Sl. No	Time Frequency	Gender		Domicile		Total
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
1	Less than 1 hour	6 (0.63)	3 (0.31)	6 (0.63)	3 (0.31)	9 (0.94)
2	1 - 2 hours	2 (0.21)	10 (1.04)	7 (0.73)	5 (0.52)	12 (1.25)
3	2 - 3 hours	19 (1.98)	8 (0.83)	13 (1.35)	14 (1.46)	27 (2.81)
4	3 - 4 hours	248 (25.83)	188 (19.58)	165 (17.19)	271 (28.23)	436 (45.42)
5	More than 4 hours	276 (28.75)	200 (20.83)	203 (21.15)	273 (28.44)	476 (49.58)
<b>Total</b>		551 (57.4)	409 (42.6)	394 (41.04)	566 (58.96)	960 (100)

(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)

It is revealed from the table 3 shows that the Time spent in the library in single visit among the respondents in District Central Library with their category of the Gender. The frequency was categories as follows: Less than 1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-3 hours, 3-4 hours and more than 4 hours. From the category of Male respondents, 6(0.63%) were spent 'Less than 1 hour', 19(1.98%) were '2-3 hours' and 248(25.83%) were opinioned '3-4 hours'. In Female, 10(1.04%) were opinioned '1-2 hours', 188(19.58%) were opinioned '3-4 hours'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 276(28.75%) were spent 'More than 4 hours'.

Followed by, the Time spent in the library in single visit among the respondents in District Central Library analyzed with their category of the Domicile. From the category rural, 6(0.63%) were spent 'Less than 1 hour', 13(1.35%) were '2-3 hours' and 165(17.19%) were opinioned '3-4 hours'. In urban, 5(0.52%) were opinioned '1-2 hours', 271(28.23%) were spent '3-4 hours'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of urban, 273(28.44%) were spent 'More than 4 hours'.

### 4.5. Purpose of visit to the District Central library

The Purpose of visit to the District Central library to access and use information among the respondents has been analyses based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 4.

**Table 4:** Purpose of visit to the District Central library

Sl. No	Frequency	Gender		Domicile		Total
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
1	Reading Newspapers	7 (0.73)	9 (0.94)	12 (1.25)	4 (0.42)	16 (1.67)
2	Reading Periodicals	46 (4.79)	53 (5.52)	32 (3.33)	67 (6.98)	99 (10.31)
3	Prepare for competitive exams	219 (22.81)	161 (16.77)	123 (12.81)	257 (26.77)	380 (39.58)
4	Hobby	112 (11.67)	70 (7.29)	69 (7.19)	113 (11.77)	182 (18.96)
5	General Knowledge	167 (17.4)	116 (12.08)	158 (16.46)	125 (13.02)	283 (29.48)
	<b>Total</b>	55 (57.4)	409 (42.6)	394 (41.04)	566 (58.96)	960 (100)

(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)

It is identified from the table 4 shows that the Purpose of visit with their category of the Gender. The purpose was categories as follows: Reading Newspapers, Reading Periodicals, Hobby, and General Knowledge. From the category of Male respondents, 7(0.73%) were visit for 'Reading Newspapers', 46(4.79%) were 'Reading Periodicals' and 167(17.4%) were opinioned 'General Knowledge'. In Female, 161(16.77%) were 'Prepare for competitive exams', 70(7.29%) were 'Hobby' and 116(12.08%) were for 'General Knowledge'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 219(22.81%) were visit for 'Prepare for competitive exams'.

Followed by, the Purpose of visit to the district central library analyzed with their category of the domicile. From the category of rural, 12(1.25%) were visit for 'Reading Newspapers', 32(3.33%) were 'Reading Periodicals' and 158(16.46%) were visit for 'General Knowledge'. In the case of urban, 67(6.98%) were 'Reading Periodicals', 113(11.77%) were 'Hobby' and 125(13.02%) were for 'General Knowledge'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents 257(26.77%) were in the category of urban were visit for 'Prepare for competitive exams'.

#### 4.6. Reason for not visiting the District Central library

The Reason for not visiting the District Central library to access and use information among the

respondents has been analyses based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 5.

**Table 5:** Reason for not visiting the District Central library

Sl. No	Frequency	Gender		Domicile		Total
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
1	Library working hour is inconvenient	3 (0.31)	4 (0.42)	3 (0.31)	4 (0.42)	7 (0.73)
2	Library is far away from my home	9 (0.94)	13 (1.35)	8 (0.83)	14 (1.46)	22 (2.29)
3	Lack of transportation facility	71 (7.4)	66 (6.88)	63 (6.56)	74 (7.71)	137 (14.27)
4	Lack of adequate collection	310 (32.29)	235 (24.48)	218 (22.71)	327 (34.06)	545 (56.77)
5	I use school library	158 (16.46)	91 (9.48)	102 (10.63)	147 (15.31)	249 (25.94)
	<b>Total</b>	551 (57.4)	409 (42.6)	394 (41.04)	566 (58.96)	960 (100)

(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)

It is identified from the table 5 shows that the Reason for not visiting the library among the respondents in District Central Library with their category of the Gender. The Reason was categories as follows: Library working hour is inconvenient; Library is far away from my home, Lack of transportation facility, Lack of adequate collection and I use school library. From the category of Male respondents, 3(0.31%) were for 'Library working hour is inconvenient', 9(0.94%) were 'Library is far away from my home' and 158(16.46%) were 'I use school library'. In Female, 66(6.88%) were 'Lack of transportation facility', 235(24.48%) were for 'Lack of adequate collection'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 310(32.29%) were for 'Lack of adequate collection'.

Followed by, the Reason for not visiting the library among the respondents in District Central Library analyzed with their category of the domicile. From the category of rural, 3(0.31%) were for 'Library working hour is inconvenient', 8(0.83%) were 'Library is far away from my home' and 102(10.63%) were 'I use school library'. In urban, 74(7.71%) were 'Lack of transportation facility', 147(15.31%) were for 'I use school library'. It is

identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the urban 327(34.06%) were for 'Lack of adequate collection'.

#### 4.7. Types of information resources opinioned by the respondents

The Types of information resources opinioned by the respondents in the District Central library has been analyses based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 6.

**Table 6:** Types of information resources opinioned by the respondents

Sl. No	Frequency	Gender		Domicile		Total
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
1	Encyclopedias	3 (0.31)	1 (0.1)	2 (0.21)	2 (0.21)	4 (0.42)
2	Dictionaries	97 (10.1)	69 (7.19)	91 (9.48)	75 (7.81)	166 (17.29)
3	Year books	28 (2.92)	26 (2.71)	32 (3.33)	22 (2.29)	54 (5.63)
4	Biographical sources	269 (28.02)	184 (19.17)	152 (15.83)	301 (31.35)	453 (47.19)
5	News papers	154 (16.04)	129 (13.44)	117 (12.19)	166 (17.29)	283 (29.48)
	<b>Total</b>	551 (57.4)	409 (42.6)	394 (41.04)	566 (58.96)	960 (100)

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

It is identified from the table 6 shows that the types of information resources opinioned by the respondents in District Central Library with their category of the Gender. The types of information resources were categories as follows: Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Yearbooks, Biographical sources and News papers. From the category of Male respondents, 3(0.31%) were opinioned 'Encyclopedias', 97(10.1%) were 'Dictionaries' and 154(16.04%) were 'News papers'. In Female, 26(2.71%) were 'Year books', 184(19.17%) were 'Biographical sources'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 269(28.02%) were opinioned 'Biographical sources'.

Followed by, the types of information resources opinioned by the respondents in District Central Library analyzed with their category of the domicile. From the category of rural 91(9.48%) were opinioned 'Dictionaries', 32(3.33%) were opinioned year books and 117(12.19%) were 'News papers'. In urban, 22(2.29%) were 'Year books', 75(7.81%) were opinioned 'Dictionaries'. It is identified from the

table the highest number of respondents were in the category of urban 301(31.35%) were opinioned 'Biographical sources'.

#### 4.8. Preference of news papers for more information seeking

The Preference of news papers for more information seeking by the respondents in the District Central library has been analyses based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 7

**Table 7:** Preference of news papers for more information seeking

Sl. No	Frequency	Gender		Domicile		Total
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
1	Tamil	307 (31.98)	203 (21.15)	285 (29.69)	225 (23.44)	510 (53.13)
2	English	181 (18.85)	154 (16.04)	83 (8.65)	252 (26.25)	335 (34.9)
3	Other Languages	63 (6.56)	52 (5.42)	26 (2.71)	89 (9.27)	115 (11.98)
	<b>Total</b>	551 (57.4)	409 (42.6)	394 (41.04)	566 (58.96)	960 (100)

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

It is identified from the table 7 shows that the Preference of news papers for more information seeking opinioned by the respondents in District Central Library with their category of the Gender. The types news papers were categories as follows: Tamil, English and Other Languages. From the category of Male respondents, 181(18.85%) were preferred 'English', 63(6.56%) were preferred 'other languages'. In Female, 203(21.15%) were preferred 'Tamil', 154(16.04%) were 'English' and 52(5.42%) were preferred 'other languages'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 307(31.98%) were preferred 'Tamil'.

Followed by, the Preference of news papers for more information seeking opinioned by the respondents in District Central Library with their category of the domicile. From the category of rural, 83(8.65%) were preferred 'English', 26(2.71%) were preferred 'other languages'. In Female, 225(23.44%) were preferred 'Tamil', 252(26.25%) were 'English' and 89(9.27%) were preferred 'other languages'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of rural 285(29.69%) were preferred 'Tamil'.

#### 4.9. The types of News opinioned to read by the respondents

The types of News opinioned to read by the respondents in the District Central library has been analysed based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 8

**Table 8:** The types of News opinioned to read by the respondents

Sl. No	Frequency	Gender		Domicile		Total
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
1	Local News	214 (22.29)	164 (17.08)	139 (14.48)	239 (24.9)	378 (39.38)
2	National News	237 (24.69)	186 (19.38)	179 (18.65)	244 (25.42)	423 (44.06)
3	Business News	15 (1.56)	6 (0.63)	11 (1.15)	10 (1.04)	21 (2.19)
4	Foreign News	43 (4.48)	33 (3.44)	30 (3.13)	46 (4.79)	76 (7.92)
5	Sports News	42 (4.38)	20 (2.08)	35 (3.65)	27 (2.81)	62 (6.46)
	<b>Total</b>	551 (57.4)	409 (42.6)	394 (41.04)	566 (58.96)	960 (100)

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

It is revealed from the table 8 shows that the types of News opinioned to read among the respondents in District Central Library with their category of the Gender. The types were categories as follows: Local News, National News, Business News, Foreign News and Sports News. From the category of Male respondents, 214(22.29%) were opinioned 'Local News', 15(1.56%) were 'Business News' and 43(4.48%) were opinioned 'Foreign News'. In Female, 186(19.38%) were opinioned 'National News', 33(3.44%) were opinioned 'Foreign News'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 237(24.69%) were opinioned 'National News'.

Followed by, the types of News opinioned to read among the respondents in District Central Library analyzed with their category of the Domicile. From the category of rural, 139(14.48%) were opinioned 'Local News', 11(1.15%) were 'Business News' and 30(3.13%) were opinioned 'Foreign News'. In urban, 239(24.9%) were opinioned 'Local News', 46(4.79%) were opinioned 'Foreign News'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of urban, 244(25.42%) were opinioned 'National News'.

#### 4.11. The Difficulties in the use of information sources in Libraries

The Difficulties in the use of information sources in Libraries among the respondents in the District Central library has been analysed based on the opinion of the respondents and it is shown in the table 9.

**Table 9:** The Difficulties in the use of information sources in Libraries

Sl. No	Frequency	Gender		Domicile		Total
		Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
1	Lack of time	221 (23.02)	166 (17.29)	139 (14.48)	248 (25.83)	387 (40.31)
2	Lack of staff	41 (4.27)	34 (3.54)	37 (3.85)	38 (3.96)	75 (7.81)
3	Lack of resources	113 (11.77)	92 (9.58)	86 (8.96)	119 (12.4)	205 (21.35)
4	Lack of services	107 (11.15)	67 (6.98)	81 (8.44)	93 (9.69)	174 (18.13)
5	Confusion in arrangement of sources	69 (7.19)	50 (5.21)	51 (5.31)	68 (7.08)	119 (12.4)
	<b>Total</b>	551 (57.4)	409 (42.6)	394 (41.04)	566 (58.96)	960 (100)

*(Figures in the parentheses denote percentage)*

It is revealed from the table 10 shows that the Difficulties in the use of information sources in Libraries among the respondents in District Central Library with their category of the Gender. The types were categories as follows: Lack of time, Lack of staff, Lack of resources, Lack of services and Confusion in arrangement of sources. From the category of Male respondents, 41(4.27%) were opinioned 'Lack of staff, 113(11.77%) were 'Lack of resources' and 107(11.15%) were opinioned 'Lack of services'. In Female, 166(17.29%) were opinioned 'Lack of time', 67(6.98%) were opinioned 'Lack of services'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of Male 221(23.02%) were opinioned 'Lack of time'.

Followed by, the Difficulties in the use of information sources in Libraries among the respondents in District Central Library analyzed with their category of the Domicile. From the category of rural, 139(14.48%) were opinioned 'Lack of time', 86(8.96%) were 'Lack of resources' and 81(8.44%) were opinioned 'Lack of services'. In urban, 68(7.08%) were opinioned 'Confusion in

arrangement of sources', 93(9.69%) were opinioned 'Lack of services'. It is identified from the table the highest number of respondents were in the category of urban, 248(25.83%) were opinioned 'Lack of time'.

## CONCLUSION

The user satisfaction is the important measuring the quantitative and qualitative strategy to each and every library e-resources and e-services. The public libraries are providing resources and services using technologies and tools to maximise the user satisfaction. In these circumstances, the library professionals must extract the e-resources and e-services among childrens and also to improve the general awareness among the public.

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