
Users Attitudes towards Library Resources and Services in First Grade Colleges in Davanagere District: A Survey

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Abstract

This paper discusses the use and awareness of electronic resource by college library users. There are 300 questionnaires were distributed and 295 filled questionnaires was received from the users of three colleges, namely GFGC, Honnali, GFGC Channagiri, GFGC Davanagere. In the other hand this paper spread light on the use and availability of electronic resource. The E-resource offers tremendous opportunities to provide solutions to some of the problems the libraries are facing these days and has great potential for a variety of applications in libraries as it contributes to improved quality, productivity and more effective services to the users. The impact of e-resources is visible in each and every activity of the library

Keywords

Library resource, Library use, Electronic services, Undergraduates, Davangere

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INTRODUCTION

Library is a social institution with the sacred responsibility of collecting, organizing, preserving and disseminating knowledge. Information Technology has revolutionized information management to the extent that information will no longer confine to the four walls of the library. During the last few years, electronic became a major factor on the college library scene. First grade college libraries were serving both undergraduates and postgraduates. They are involved in the twin purpose of providing learning resources for students and today were age of electronic and remote access to information. ICT has fundamentally altered library usage pattern. These changes were seen in the notable preference and propensity for e-Resources and remote access to these collections. **Naik (2014)** pointed out that the e-Resources in First Grade College Libraries in Bangalore city among the faculty to study their knowledge perception and attitudes to words of electronic resources.

Hence, there is need to help First Grade College students imbibe good library use culture which involve resource use. This is because there are many benefits in the use of college library resources which has institutionalized access to information. Libraries have very good quality collections and also librarians impart the skills needed to access information in the new environment. This can empower students in the ability to identify, locate and use information effectively. In college library, this is very important because of the emphasis on evidence base practice which requires information skills to harness evidence. The present study was a user study to determine the use of the college library by undergraduate students.

Attitudes towards Use of Libraries, Information and learning

The challenge of the globally competitive environment in which the parent institution of the library operates, libraries face a fundamental shift amongst the students in terms of their approach to information, research and use of technology. the challenges academic librarians face when designing and offering information literacy programs to the millennials who are almost always connected to the Internet and to each other and who almost invariably start their search using search engines on Google cannot be underestimated

Impact on learning and information literacy

The role of libraries and librarians in teaching-learning and directly affecting student learning outcomes has been discussed in the literature for over two decades. However, this role and its impact on institutional outcomes and value of the academic library to the college have taken on a renewed importance, mainly due to the increased focus on library's impact on student achievement, learning and research outcomes, i.e. what does the student and the faculty receive for their investment of time and energy.

Davanagere district: A brief profile

Davanagere is situated about 38 miles north west of Chitradurga. It is an important city and railway junction on the Poona Bangalore line of the southern railway. It is one of the important trade centre in the state. Davanagere district carved out of the erstwhile three districts namely Chitradurga, Shimoga and Bellary derives its name from DEVANAGARI. Davanagere is one of 30 districts of Karnataka state. With creation of the new district on 15th August 1997 with Davanagere as its headquarters the district was given the name of the headquarters town called Davanagere. The district spans over a total geographical area of 5,975.99 square kilometers. It ranks 16th in area among twenty-seven districts of the state and measures 117 km from north to south and 110 km from east to west. Davanagere district is divided into 6 talukas namely Davanagere, Harihar, Honnali, Channagiri, Jagalur and Nyamathi. A unique district located in the central part of northern Karnataka lies between 13° 5' and 14° 50' north latitudinal parallels and 75° 30' and 76° 30' east longitudinal parallels. The district is bounded by five districts namely Haveri and Shimoga on the west, Bellary on the north, Chitradurga on the east, Chitradurga and Shimoga on the east, and Haveri on the southwest. Tungabhadra River passes through Honnali taluk and later forms natural boundary on the west Harihar borders. Davanagere and Harihar towns lie on NH 4 through which broad gauge railway line also passes.

Review Literature

Tahir, Mahmood, & Shafique, (2010) have carried a study on "Use of electronic information resources and facilities by humanities scholars "to find out what extent the humanities scholars value Information Technology (IT) and view its relation to their research and teaching. The results correspondents with previous studies conducted in

other countries. The humanists still stick to the printed information sources but they pay good attention to Electronic Information Resources (EIS). Thanuskodi, (2011) focused on e-Journals in his study 'User Awareness and Use of E-Journals among Education Faculty Members in Chennai: A Survey'. The e-journal is one of the products of information and communication technologies (ICT). The advancement of e-journal during recent years has given librarians a powerful new resource to support learning and research. The main objectives of the present study are to find out the awareness of users about available e-journals, to study the purpose and utilization of e-journals, and to find out the hindrances and problems faced by the users while accessing and using e-journals. A questionnaire was distributed among the faculty members to collect data. Kishore Kumar, & Naik, (2015) have jointly conducted a study on "Usage of Wi-Fi Service among Users' of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute Library, Bangalore. The finding of the study showed that 50% of students visited library to use Wi-Fi facility followed by 25% for reading, 10% for using the internet and the 5% each for consultation, issue and return and photocopy services. Rameshanaik, & Naik, (2015) conducted a study to examine the performance of the users toward printed books and journals, electronic information resources, and pattern of using e-Resources. The results showed that the entire faculty stated that electronic information resources have become a substitute for printed materials. Kishore Kumar, & Naik, (2016) have conducted a study on "Availability of information communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and Its Use in Nursing College Libraries Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science, Bangalore: A Study". The major findings revealed that 62% library used Easylib software to automate their libraries, whereas other libraries were using other software to automation of their libraries. 43% of nursing college libraries are providing internet facility to users, other colleges 57% are not providing internet services to its users.

Objectives of the study

- To find out the perceptions and awareness of students on college library resources
- To extent of use of the college library by the students
- To explore the training needs of the First grade college students.
- To find the barriers to effective use of the First grade college library.

Methodology

This study is a survey research. The survey covered the three faculties of the First grade college: namely GFGC, Honnali, GFGC, Channagiri, GFGC, Davanagere. The study focused on undergraduate students. Data was collected using the through questionnaire instrument. There are 300 questionnaires were distributed and 295 filled questionnaires was received from the users of three colleges, namely GFGC, Honnali, GFGC Channagiri, GFGC Davanagere.

Table.1 Population of the Study

Respondents	Number	%
Male	187	63.4
Female	108	36.6

Among the total population 295, there are male 187 (63.4%), as compared to female 108 (36.6%). So the male respondents are major users.

Table.2: How Long Library Users

	Daily	2-3 times in a week	Weekly	Monthly	At least once a Monthly	Non-users
Frequ-ency	18	69	43	130	51	45
Per centage	6.1%	23.4%	14.6%	4%	17.3%	15.2%

How long visit to the college library is shown in table 2. Results indicate that large percentage (84.8) visits the library regularly or occasionally. Regular users who visit weekly to daily constitute 44.1%. Occasional users who visit monthly to at least once a month constitute 40.7%. Non-users constitute 15.2% of the respondents.

Table.3: Activities in the Library

	Regularly	Percentage	Occasional	%
Read Text Books	183	62%	64	21.7%
Read news paper	103	34.9%	95	32.2%
Do personal work	79	26.7%	114	38.6%
Consult Library print	77	26.1%	95	32.2%

books				
Do Research work	69	23.4%	125	42.4%
Using Journals	52	17.6%	102	34.6%
Ask Librarian for assistance	45	15.2%	114	38.6%
Library books barrow	50	16.9%	84	28.5%
For using library catalogue	21	7.5%	59	20%
Use of online data base	18	6.1%	26	8.8%

Respondents' activities (Table 3) on a regularly and occasionally shows that major activities respondents undertake in the library regularly and occasionally are: to read personal textbooks (83.9%), newspapers (67.1%), do research work (65.8%), and class assignments (65.3%). Over half the respondents have consulted library print books (58.3%), using print and online journals (52.2%) and asked assistance from librarians (53.8%). Close to half of total populations (45.4%) have borrowed library books. There is low usage of library catalogue (27.5%) and online databases (14.9%).

Respondents Borrowing of Library Books according to Subject Area

Students' rate of borrowing library books by subject. Students were asked to indicate subjects for which they have ever borrowed books in the Library.

Table .4: Respondents Borrowing of Library Books according to Subject Area

	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Commerce	63	21.4
Indian Economics	56	19
Political Science	44	14.9
Sociology	38	12.9
History	37	12.5
International Economics	25	8.5
Science	23	7.8
General Knowledge	22	7.5
Kannada	21	7.1

English	16	5.4
Others	14	4.7

As shown in Table 4 the highest numbers indicated borrowing books from Commerce 63(21.4%), Indian economy 56 (19%), political science 14 (14.9), sociology 38 (12.9%) and History 37(12.5%).

Awareness of Library Resources

Scholar was asked to indicate their perceptions of the purpose of the library.

Table.5: Awareness of Library Resources

	Aware	Not aware	Not Response
Books	285(96.6%)	4(1.4%)	5(1.7%)
Journals	256(86.8%)	11(3.7%)	18(6.1%)
News Papers	256(86.8%)	11(3.7%)	18(6.1%)
Reference material	206(69.8%)	20(6.8%)	47(15.9%)
Reserved Books (SC/ST, UGC, etc.,)	138(46.8%)	56(19%)	92(34.6%)
Online services	94 (31.9%)	60(20.3%)	102(34.6%)
N List	81(27.5%)	61(20.7%)	108(36.6%)
E-books	52(17.6%)	79(26.8%)	125(42.4%)
E-Journals	48(16.3%)	80(27.1%)	125(42.4%)
CD-Rom Resources	52(17.6%)	70(23.7%)	128(43.4%)

Table 5 indicates that there is high awareness for print resources. Almost all students (96.6%) are aware that books are available in the library. High percentages are aware that there are journals (86.8%), newspapers (86.8%) and Reference material (69.8%). However, there is low awareness of availability of e-Resources in the library. Over on third (36.6% - 44.4%) are not response that the library has all the listed e-Resources and over 20% percentages are not aware that they exist in the library. This means that on the average about 60% of the respondents are not aware or response of the existence of e-Resources in the library

Major problem of the Library

Barriers to effective use of the library are shown in table.

Table .6: Major problem of the Library

	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of Internet/computer	223	75.6
Lack of current materials	179	60.7
Reading environment	136	46.1
Inconvenient space and seats	113	38.3
Lighting	108	36.6
Poor arranged material	66	22.4
Noise	54	18.3

Major problem reported by the students on the effective use of the College Library as shown in Table. 6 are lack of computer / Internet (75.6%) and lack of current materials (60.7%), hot environment (46.1%), insufficient space and seats for reading in the library (38.3%) and poor lighting also (36.6%). Noise was the least (18.3%) barrier to the use of the library.

Major Findings of the Study

- Majority of the respondents feel main purpose of the college library are to provide information (85.1%) and a research resource (72.9%).
- Large percentage (84.8%) visits the library.
- Regular users constitute 44.1% while occasional users are 40.7%.
- The Internet is meeting the information needs of a good number of non-users and irregular users.
- There is high awareness of availability of print based information materials but about 60% of the respondents are not aware or sure of the existence of e-Resources in the library.
- Respondents' major activities in the College Library are reading personal textbooks (83.9%), newspapers (67.1%), sourcing information for research or project work (65.8%) and class assignments (65.3%). Over half have consulted library print books (58.9%), and journals (52.2%). Close to half (45.4%) have borrowed library books.
- Major barriers reported by the student on the effective use of the College Library are lack of computer / Internet (75.6%) and lack of current materials (60.7%).

Conclusions:

Researchers in this pilot study have good perceptions of the role of the First Grade College Library. However there is very low awareness of what they library have in terms of e-Resources. Though results indicate highest use of library to read personal textbooks and newspapers, there is moderate use of library resources with over half consulting books and journals and close to half borrowing college library books. There is also need to upgrade facilities in the college library especially as regards electronic information infrastructure and resources to meet the needs and expectations of the new age users. This will motivate the college students to fully exploit the tool that is meant to provide information support for their studies and for practice of evidence based medicine upon their education.

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