Information Seeking Pattern of Readers in Engineering College Libraries with reference to Tirunelveli District

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Abstract

This paper discusses information seeking pattern of readers in engineering colleges libraries situated in Tirunelveli district. In the era of Information Science Engineering colleges have played dynamic role in influencing the future of tomorrow's communal needs. The present study intricately demonstrates the various aspects of information seeking Pattern of Readers in Engineering colleges libraries, such as Frequency of visit to library, purpose of using library, purpose of using internet, search engines, information sources availability and usage details, Reason using/not using library resources and satisfaction level of the users of engineering college libraries in Tirunelveli district.

Keywords

Information seeking pattern; Reader;, Frequency of Library Visits; Information services; Nature and Type of Information Required; Satisfaction

Introduction

Engineering Colleges play a key role in society by making future generations to use the acquired knowledge to fulfill their responsibilities more effectively. The libraries of these institutions serve a variety of users such as students, faculty, administrators and staff with diverse information needs. These libraries collect a variety of information sources and offer various services for supporting instructional research Today's library is powerhouse where information is stored, generated and transferred to fulfill the need of the readers.

Information-seeking pattern of readers is one of the most important areas of user studies and a concept affected by many factors. Information seeking pattern is a broad term which involves a set of actions that an individual takes to express information needs, seek information, evaluate and select information, and finally uses this information to satisfy the information needs. Various factors may determine the information seeking pattern of an individual or a group of individuals. It is, therefore, desirable to understand the purpose for which information is required, the environment in which the user operates users' skills in identifying the needed information, channels and sources preferred for acquiring information.

Review of Literature:

Aragudige Nagaraja, K.C. Gangadhar, M. Vasanthakumar, (2011) "Whether big deals are really big for engineering college libraries?: Or is there any need for better model?", It is clearly observed from the above findings that the major information access pattern of the users of libraries is from e- resources rather than printed resources. Jeyaprakash and Nirmala P J (2014), "Information seeking behavior of engineering college faculties and arts college faculties: a comparative study ", investigates that the Information seeking behavior of two Engineering colleges and two Arts colleges. This study aims to look at the knowledge seeking behavior of faculties between Arts and engineering college resources and the study concentrated on the usage of Library resources among the colleges. Lakshmi Sankari R, Chinnasamy K, and Venkatachalam A. M, 2016 " A study of information seeking behaviour of users of Vinayaka Mission"s Kirupananda Variyar Engineering College Library in Salem", reveals that users are satisfied with resources in library and services, but they are in orientation programme/ user education to access online information. Even though

document delivery service is being provided on demand, the researchers pointed out that it would be worthwhile if the library could provide them with indexing, abstracting and interlibrary loan service as well. User education about library using must and should be carried out as a seminar or workshop training

Objectives of the study:
➢ To identify the characteristics of the Readers of engineering college libraries at southern districts in Tamil Nadu
➢ To identify the information needs of the readers in the study area
➢ To identify the way in which library meet the information needs of readers and their Preferred sources of information.

Methodology

The study has been conducted on readers of engineering college libraries in Tirunelveli district. Primary and secondary data has been collected by using the survey instrument. A well-structured Interview schedule was designed to satisfy the objectives of the study and to collect the data from the readers of engineering college libraries at Tirunelveli district. The collected data has been processed with statistical tools like Two-way Annova and Regression co efficient etc. The collected data was represented in the form of tables and figures.

Scope of the Study

There are twenty-two Engineering colleges in Tirunelveli district, out of which five colleges namely Government College of Engineering, Tirunelveli, Einstein College of Engineering, Tirunelveli, Francis Xavier Engineering College Palayamkottai, P.S.N. College of Engineering and Technology, Palayamkottai and Scad Engineering College, Tirunelveli are randomly selected as sample units and fifteen respondents each from the five (15*5=75) colleges selected as respondents for the study.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Table 1: Gender of the Respondents

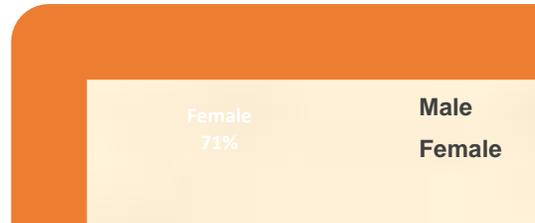| Sl.No.	Gender	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Male	22	29.3	29.3
2	Female	53	70.7	100.0
	Total	75	100	

Source: Primary Data

Fig.1. Gender of the Respondents

Table 1 and Fig 1 describe the classification of sample respondents on the basis of Gender. It is detected from the table that majority (70.70%) of the respondents are female and the residual 29.30% of them are male.

Table 2: Age of the respondents

Sl.No.	Age Group	Respondent	%
1	Below - 30	14	18.7
2	30 - 45	37	49.3
3	Above 45	24	32.0
	Total	**75**	**100.0**

Source: Primary Data

From the table.2 it is shown that in the total of 75 samples selected for the study, majority of the respondents (49.30%) are in the Age group of 30 - 45 years i.e. Middle aged followed by the Age group 45 years (32.00%), and Age group below 30 years i.e. youngsters (18.70%). It is further concluded that the maximum number of staffs working in the age group of 30 – 40.

Table 3: Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Sl.No.	Qualification	Respondent	%
1	M.Tech.	18	24.0
2	M.E	22	29.3
3	M.Sc.	12	16.0
	Ph.D.	23	30.7
	Total	**75**	**100.0**

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 discloses the educational qualifications of the selected respondents. It is seen that maximum of 23 respondents (30.70 per cent) were qualified with Ph.D. followed by M.Tech., M.E and M.Sc. which constitute 24 per cent, 29.30 per cent and 16 per cent

respectively. The highest number of respondents (30.70 per cent) are having Ph.D.

Table 4: Designation of Respondents

Sl.No.	Designation	Respondent	%
1	Assistant Professor	41	54.7
2	Associate Professor	14	18.7
3	Professor	16	21.3
	Non-Teaching staffs	4	5.3
	Total	**75**	**100.0**

Source: Primary Data

The table 4 discloses the designation of respondents. It is inferred that maximum of 41 respondents (54.70 Percent) i.e. more than one half are assistant professors followed by professors and associate professors are 21.30 per cent and 18.17 per cent respectively. Only a skimpy amount of respondents (5.3 per cent) are non-teaching staffs.

Table 5: Experience of Respondents

Sl.No.	Experience	Respondent	%
1	below 10 Years	27	36.0
2	10 - 15 years	15	20.0
3	15 - 20 Years	14	18.7
	Above 20 Years	19	25.3
	Total	**75**	**100.0**

Source: Primary Data

It is understood from the Table 5 that out of 75 respondents, 27 (36.00 per cent) of them have below 10 years' experience in engineering college followed by above twenty years, 10 – 15 and 15 – 20 years which constitute 25.30 per cent, 20 per cent and 18.70 per cent respectively. It is concluded that majority of the readers have below 10 years' experience in engineering college

Table 6: Monthly income of the Respondents

Sl.No.	Monthly Income	Respondent	%
1	Below `25000	19	25.3
2	`25000 - 75000	23	30.7
3	`75000 - 125000	20	26.7
	Above `125000	13	17.3
	Total	**75**	**100.0**

Source : Primary Data

Table 6 exposes that out of 75 respondents, maximum of 23 (30.70 per cent) of them are having the monthly income range of `25,000 - `75,000 per month followed by 75,000 – 1,25,000, below `25,000 and Above 1,25,000 which constitute 26.70 per cent, 25.30 per cent, and 17.30 per cent respectively. It is concluded that majority of the respondents' come under the range of `25000 – 75000 in the study area.

Table 7: Frequency of visit

Sl.No.	Frequency of visit	Respondent	%
1	Every day	19	25.3
2	Twice in week	16	21.3
3	Once in a week	14	18.7
	Once in a fortnight	10	13.3
	Once in a Month	11	14.7
	Occasionally	5	6.7
	Total	**75**	**100.0**

Source: Primary Data

Fig. 2. Frequency of visit

It is known from the table 7 and Fig 2, maximum of 25.30 percent of respondents visit to the library daily followed by twice in a week, once in a week, once in a fortnight, once in a Month and occasionally which constitute 21.3 percent, 18.7 percent, 13.3 percent, 14.7 percent and 6.7 percent respectively.

Table 8: Nature and Type of Information Required

Particular	Readers Responses					WAM	Rank
Subject related text books	35	13	11	10	6	3.813	I
Subject related reference books	18	17	14	13	13	3.187	V
Other general books	23	22	13	11	6	3.600	II

Subject related journals/Periodicals	19	18	19	8	11	3.347	IV
General journals/Periodicals	16	19	14	11	15	3.133	VII
Project reports	20	13	16	12	14	3.173	VI
Conference proceedings/seminars	21	19	18	16	1	3.573	III
Languages	17	12	19	12	15	3.053	VIII

Source : Primary Data

Table 8 clearly indicates that subject related text books are prominently required by the respondents and given the rank one followed by Other general books, Conference proceedings/seminars, Subject related journals/Periodicals, Subject related reference books, Project reports, Subject related reference books and Languages respectively.

Association between profile variable of Respondents and their satisfaction towards Library Services

Table 9: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.907[a]	.823	.804	.49253

ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	75.534	7	10.791	44.482	.000[b]
	Residual	16.253	67	.243		
	Total	91.787	74			

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	6.396	.291		21.986	.000
	Gender of the Respondents	-.190	.256	-.078	-.742	.461
	Age of the respondents	-.257	.204	-.163	-1.263	.211
	Educational Qualification of the Respondents	.255	.242	.267	1.055	.295
	Designation of Respondents	-.709	.189	-.616	-3.756	.000
	Experience of Respondents	-.094	.084	-.102	-1.119	.267
	Monthly income of the Respondents	-.216	.197	-.203	-1.098	.276
	Frequency of visit	-.081	.067	-.117	-1.207	.232

Source: Primary Data

Table 9 discloses the regression coefficient of between profile variable of Respondents and their satisfaction towards Library Services. It also shows R square, "F" value, "t" value and significance value. "t" value for Gender of the Respondents 0.742 followed by Age of the respondents, Educational Qualification, Designation, Experience, Monthly income and frequency of the visit which constitute -1.263, 1.055, -3.756, -1.119, -1.098 and -1.207 respectively. The corresponding the significance value for all variable except Designation is more than 0.05 at 95 percent confidence level, so it is concluded that profile variables expect designation are not influence the satisfaction level of the readers.

Findings

⇒ It is found that 71 per cent of the respondents are female and the remaining 29 per cent male.

⇒ The researcher understood that majority of the respondents (49.30%) are in the Age group of 30 - 45 years i.e. Middle aged

⇒ It is seen that maximum of 23 respondents (30.70 per cent) were qualified with Ph.D. followed by M.Tech., M.E and M.Sc.

⇒ It is inferred that maximum of 41 respondents (54.70 Percent) i.e. more than one half are assistant professors followed by professors and associate professors

⇒ Maximum of 23 (30.70 per cent readers are having the monthly income range of `25,000 - `75,000 per month followed by 75,000 – 1,25,000, below `25,000 and Above 1,25,000

⇒ It is observed that 27 (36.00 per cent) of them have below 10 years' experience in engineering college followed by above twenty years, 10 – 15 and 15 – 20 years.

⇒ Most of the respondents required subject related text books and followed by Other general books, Conference proceedings/seminars, Subject related journals/Periodicals, Subject related reference books, Project reports, Subject related reference books and Languages respectively.

⇒ The profile variables of readers are not influence their opinion regarding the satisfaction of library services.

Conclusion

The engineering college libraries are expected to provide reader-oriented services, aiming at satisfying the students, faculties and non-teaching staffs through the provision of appropriate information resources and services. The most of the readers' state that engineering colleges library possess required information for its users and it could not find elsewhere.

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