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A study on the use of Information Sources and Services in Library for Arts College Students in Madurai District

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Abstract

Education is the key factor in the development and advancement of a society. Each individual in a country should be considered as an asset because it is due to the overall contribution of human resources that a nation can progress and advance. To integrate each individual in the process of development and advancement of the nation, suitable education and training is very important. Since education and training of an individual is a lifelong process every nation must be aware of this fact, if proper directions are to be given to its people. The sample for the present study consists of 50 Arts college students from three colleges. Primary data has been used. Hence the investigator has adopted survey method for data collection using stratified random sampling method. 36% of the respondents made daily visits to the library, followed by 30% respondents visit library once in a week.

Keywords: Library, Arts College, Madurai

Introduction

Education is the key factor in the development and advancement of a society. Each individual in a country should be considered as an asset because it is due to the overall contribution of human resources that a nation can progress and advance. To integrate each individual in the process of development and advancement of the nation, suitable education and training is very important. Since education and training of an individual is a lifelong process every nation must be aware of this fact, if proper directions are to be given to its people. To ensure that people get a lifelong education libraries should be made accessible and library

services should be made available at all places, to all sections of the society. The human need for information is unlimited.

People seek information from different sources and formats for undertaking a variety of jobs and tasks. They use information for decision making, discovering new phenomena, developing new techniques and technologies, and improving existing knowledge and theories. Information also plays a vital role in shaping human thinking and character building, communication, and the teaching process. Tremendous growth in knowledge, technological advancements and rapid changes in the modern world have led to an increased awareness of the importance of information in all aspects of life.

Academic institutions play a key role in society by preparing 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 and learning activities. Hence, the importance of libraries in academic institutions is considerable and they are often viewed as a nucleus of academic activity.

Today's library is powerhouse where information is stored, generated and transferred to fulfill the users need. For the optimum use of this library its users should also have knowledge to access its resources to their full benefit making every search effective. But still the information searching strategies shows that the user's searching behavior as being subjected specific and most users pick what they perceive as important word in an assigned topic and they use it to search for the needed information.

In today's scenario more students surf the Internet for information then going through the library resources, as it is less complicated and readily available. Still student who are regular uses of the library know that libraries have resources that are more comprehensive and scholarly then most web sites provide. Which also are not freely available or may not be online at all. Libraries of academic field do have subscription to e-journals that could give access to good articles in the needed studies but are not available through other search engines. For these whole

mass of Gen X as they called them could be motivated towards using library resources which could be possible only by shifting the education system from teacher centered learning to student centered learning, from a subject based to knowledge based learning.

Statement of the problem

Libraries are nests, which thatch scholarship but libraries are not themselves automatically valuable to users. Users need to be motivated to see the real worth of a library. There are various resources available both in print and electronically the main purpose of these resources will be fulfilled only if the users are able to locate these information sources effectively. Hence, the true worth of the library will be made.

Coming to this era of technological development the forms of resources has been distinctively transformed from printed books and journals to various electronic forms. Today's library has a challenge to broaden its resources and develop its collection in print resources as well as electronic format. Student of these generation are more inclined to digital forms of information they like to get information in a fastest way.

Objective

- To find out the purpose of library visit.
- To access the usefulness of periodical and services provided by the library.

Methodology

The sample for the present study consists of 50 Arts college students from three colleges. Primary data has been used. Hence the investigator has adopted survey method for data collection using stratified random sampling method. Garrett Ranking is used for the purpose of library visit.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Frequency of Visit to Library for Arts College Students

Frequency of Visit	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Everyday	18	36
Once in two days	10	20
Once in a Week	15	30
Occasionally	7	14
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

This table indicates that, 36% of the respondents made daily visits to the library, followed by 30% respondents visit library once in a week. 20% of the respondents visit library once in a two days and 14% of them are made visit occasionally.

Table 2: Garret Ranking on purpose of Library Visit for Arts College Students

Purpose	Mean Score	Rank
To borrow books	64	I
To read Newspaper	46	IV
To read and Journals and Magazines	49	III
To improve Knowledge	38	V
For recreation	33	VI
To prepare Assignment and Notes	58	II

Source: Primary Data.

Most of the respondents give Ist rank to borrow books with the mean score of 64 followed by IInd rank to prepare Assignment and Notes with the mean score value of 58. Third rank goes

to read journals and magazines with the mean score of 49. The mean score of 46 and 38 obtains IVth and Vth rank respectively for to read newspaper and to improve knowledge. The respondents give VIth rank for recreation with the mean score of 33.

Table – 3 Use of Information Sources for Arts College Students

Sources	Most frequently	Frequently	Occasionally
Books	27(54)	12(24)	11(22)
Periodicals	13 (26)	19(38)	18(36)
Encyclopedia	21 (42)	10(20)	19(38)
Year Book	34 (68)	9(18)	7(14)

Source: Primary Data.

Apart from knowledge on information resources it is equally important to know the frequency of use of different types of information sources. Therefore respondents were asked to mention the frequency of use of information sources available in the library. Analysis of the responses indicates that there is a marked preference of books 54% followed by periodicals 38% used frequently. 42% of them are use of encyclopedia and 68% of the respondents most frequently used year book.

Table – 4 Library Services for Arts College Students

Services	Yes	No
Book bank facilities	32(64)	8(16)
Reference Services	44(88)	6(12)
Current Awareness	32(64)	18(36)
Audio Video Facility	24(48)	26(52)
Xerox Service	33(66)	17(34)
Internet Service	21(42)	29(38)

Source: Primary data

This table indicates that, 64% of the respondents service for book bank and Current Awareness, followed by 88% respondents have reference service. 66 % of the respondents have Xerox and 14% of them are internet service.

Conclusion

The present study shows that almost all the users visit the library. Though the documentary sources are sufficient but the frequency of use of source like books and year book is high. There is a need to establish e library model among the Arts College in Madurai and focus on information literacy programmes.

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