



Information access pattern of library and information science professionals in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

A survey was carried out amongst the full-time Library Information Science (LIS) Professionals to ascertain their information access pattern for scholarly pursuits. This study analyses the Information Access by Library and Information Science Professionals in Electronic Environment in Tamilnadu.. A self-administered questionnaire where in the users were asked to grade certain sources and information access patterns as to their usefulness. It was found that overall, the preferred information sources were library books, periodical articles and books in private collections, and the Internet. When these findings were analysed according to field of expertise, qualifications, age and gender, different preferences were displayed. The preferences of LIS Professionals in using the library and internet facilities and resources (both print and electronic media) have been recorded. Have serious implications for information providers of the future. This present study provides the information access by 129 Library and Information Science Professionals in Tamilnadu. The population for this study consists of full time Library and Information Science Professionals with different departments using the Simple Random Sampling technique was used to choose the sample.

Keywords: Information access, libraries, library and information science professionals, ICT, database

Introduction

The phrase "Information Access Pattern" has been defined variously by different authors. The following definitions of information access pattern, however, make the concept clearer. According to Krikelas, information access pattern refers to "any activity of an personality that is undertaken to recognize a message that satisfies a perceived need". Manda defined information access pattern as "a manner in which a user conducts himself in relation to a given information environment. It is, therefore, regarded as essentially, a process of interaction between the user and the rest of the information system".

It is to mention that the information access pattern of the workplace community varies from that general access of the library system in relation with their working environment and day-to-day activities. It is noted that there is no significant studies on assessing information access pattern of library Professionals. Hence it is to remember that in deep study on the information access pattern of the work place community will reveal the problems encounter by them to access relevant information and tactics that they are using to get information. So this study is proposed to have deep analysis on the information access pattern of a particular work place community like Library Professionals in different regions. It is expected that the outcome of the study will have the strong bearing on the minds of future researchers on library user's information access pattern as well as to find new ways and means to solve the information of the workplace community.

A large number of web enabled information system are emerged for both uploading and accessing great amount of scholarly content. It is very much viable in the present knowledge society. This has posed lot of challenges and opportunities for both librarians and information generators and also to users in exploiting resources in the various context and formats at faster rate. This is mainly possible when libraries and information centres of higher education

institutions which adopt newer strategies not only in disseminating information, but also in educating end users in exploiting the information to achieve their desires. In this context it is keen to identify the level of information access pattern among the library staff in accessing and observing information and how best the library and information system is enabling them in maximizing the use of information resources in the study area. Hence, the problem chosen for the study is "Information Access pattern of Library and Information Science Professionals in Tamilnadu".

Review of Literature

Karthikeyan S, Vijayakumar K (2019) ^[2]. Academic libraries are universally accepted heart of any academic institution provide additional facilities for higher learning, research and dissemination of knowledge publications to great varieties of users on providing different kinds of services. Collection building, processing, stacking and display of the materials, organizing, managing by other related library activities are readily available for the users. "Information Access by Faculty Members in Electronic Environment: A Study at Selected Veterinary Colleges in Tamil Nadu" analyses all the major aspects covering the services provided to the users through the Internet in Chennai and Orathanad. This study is aimed to find out the information access pattern of Faculty Members in the electronic environment. Totally 117 questionnaires were distributed and 102 were received. The population for this study consists of full time Faculty Members with different departments using the Simple Random Sampling technique was used to choose the sample. The study is descriptive in nature using normative survey and describes the extent of status of the parameters prevailed in the study environment. The researcher has chosen data collection methods through structured questionnaire survey and observation. A pilot study was made and the findings were used to modify and

refine the data collection tool collected through the questionnaire was tabulated and statistical tests viz., Chi-square was applied to test the hypotheses using SPSS.

Objectives

- To ascertain the information resources utilized in sundry libraries.
- To determination the relative importance of different sources of information
- To analyse Designation wise respondents
- To find out the Experience of Library Professionals.
- To know the frequency and benefits of using e-resources
- To study the about services provided by the libraries at present.
- To find out the level of satisfaction of Library Experts

Research Methodology

Questionnaire was habituated to accumulate the useful data from the library and information science professionals working as Chief Librarian, librarian, Assistant Librarian, and Library Assistant in Selected colleges in Tamil Nadu. Library and Information Science has revealed many important facts and enabled the investigators in making some significant suggestions for the overall development of library facility and services. In this paper an attempt has been made to analyse and interpret the data collected on information seeking behaviour by Library and Information Science. This well structured online questionnaire was arranged and distributed through mail and Whatsapp to Library and Information Science (LIS) Group of library and information science professionals. The library and information science experts were accepted to answer each and every question along with their opinion on the information access pattern. The composed data are in the form of tables, examined by using a Microsoft Excel method of calculation.. Among the one four hundred fifty questionnaires distributed, one three hundred questionnaires (75 %) are acknowledged back from the Library Staff with the needed data. The collected data are analyzed and tabulated with the help Microsoft Excel.

Data analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Respondents	Percentage
Male	200	66.7
Female	100	33.3
Total	300	100

Representation and Generalizability: Understanding the gender distribution in sample helps ensure that study is representative of the broader population are studying. Table 1 shows the gender sagacious distribution of the respondents in sundry library and Information science Professionals in Tamilnadu. The table shows that majority of the respondents 66.7%are male and remaining 33.3% are female

Table 2: Designation of the Respondents

Designation	Respondents	Percentage
Chief Librarian	18	6
Librarian	102	34
Assistant Librarian	172	57.3
Library Assistant	8	2.4
Total	300	100

The specific designations important to carefully define and selected respondent designations to ensure that they accurately represent the groups of people you want to survey or interview. Table 2 shows the designation wise distribution of respondents accounting to Assistant Librarian 172 (57.3%), Librarian 102 (34%) Chief Librarian 18 (6%) and Library Assistant 8 (2.4%).

Table 3: Practice of the Library Specialists

Experience	Respondents	Percentage
0-7 years	125	41.6
8-13 years	100	33.3
14-20 years	54	18.0
21-25 years	18	6.0
26 years and above	3	1.0
Total	300	100

Library professionals’ experience plays a vital role in shaping the quality of education. It leads to more effective teaching, enhanced student outcomes, and the development of a supportive and dynamic learning environment. Therefore, valuing and nurturing the experience of educators is essential for the continued improvement of the education system. Table 3 shows the practice of Library Experts. Maximum 41.6% respondent has an experience of 0-7 years. Moderately 33.3% have an experience of 8-13 years, and low 1% has an experience above 26 years,

Table 4: Classification system use in the Academic library

Classification Scheme	Respondents	Percentage
Dewey Decimal Classification	235	78
Universal Decimal Classification	45	15
Colon Classification	20	7
Total	300	100.0

Library classification is a crucial and fundamental aspect of library organization and management. It plays a vital role in ensuring that library resources are organized in a systematic and user-friendly manner. Table 4 clearly indicate that percentage of classification scheme in the library. 78% respondents are using Dewey decimal classification, 15% respondents are using Universal Decimal Classification and 7% respondents are using Colon Classification.

Table 5: Cataloguing scheme used in the Academic library

Cataloguing Scheme	Respondents	Percentage
Anglo American Cataloguing Rules 2 nd edition	279	93
Colon Classification Code	21	7
Total	300	100.0

Library cataloguing is an essential and foundational process in library management. It involves the systematic organization and description of library materials to make them accessible to library users. Table 5 denotes the different cataloguing schemes used in the library. 93% respondents are utilizing Anglo –American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition cataloguing scheme while 7% respondents are utilizing Colon Classification Code Cataloguing scheme.

Table 6: Nature of the software’s used in the library

Software	Respondents	Percentage
Paid Software	195	65
Free Software	75	25
Own Software	30	10
Total	300	100.0

Library software is important for several reasons, as it plays a crucial role in managing and enhancing the operations of libraries. Table 6 shows the nature of the different softwares used in the library. 65% respondents using Paid softwares such as Alice for Windows, Autolib, modern lib. Libsys7, Librarian Nano, E-Granthalaya, Compuslib, LibaSoft, Library Management System Software, Delnet. 25% of respondents Online Open Source softwares likes SOUL 2.0, D.Lib, Koha, etc., and only 10% respondents are using their own prepared softwares.

Table 7: Information Sources available in the library

Information Sources	Respondents	Percentage
Books	300	11.0
Periodicals	300	11.0
Lexicons	282	10.4
Year book	265	9.6
Encyclopaedia / Almanacs	202	7.3
Examination Question papers	289	10.6
Trade Catalogues	198	7.3
Electronic resources	274	10.0
Storage device	276	10.2
Theses / Project reports	235	8.5
Conferences Reports	112	4.1
Total	2733	100.0

Library information sources play a crucial role in supporting research, education, and lifelong learning by providing access to a diverse and extensive range of knowledge and information. Table 7 shows the details of the available information resources catered by the Library Professionals. 11% of respondents for Reference / text books, and Periodicals, 10.6% of respondents for Examination Question papers, lexicons 10.4%, and next level of Respondents using storage device mean hard disc, d-space, and pen drive 10.2%, Electronic Resources using by the participant 10%, year book 9.6%, Thesis reports 8.5%, Trade Catalogue 7.3% and finally 4.1% of Conference proceedings

Table 8: Information Services available in library

Information Services	Respondents	Percentage
Transaction Service (Issues / Returns)	300	13.7
Library web OPAC	184	8.5
Periodicals Newspaper Articles	196	9.0
Current Awareness Service / Selective Dissemination Service	224	10.3
Photocopy (Xerox) Services	188	8.6
Reference Services	226	10.4
Stock Room Recommendations	215	10.0
Internet Services	218	10.0
New Arrivals Shows	208	9.6
Notice Board Presentation	216	9.9
Total	2175	100

Library information services are important because they provide access to information, support learning and research, preserve knowledge, promote information literacy, serve as community hubs, and offer a wide range of resources and services that contribute to education, culture, and personal development. Table 8 shows the different types of Information services available in the library. Transaction

Service (Issues / Returns) has 13.7%, Reference service has 10.4%, CAS/ SDI services 10.3%, Internet service and Stock room guidance 10%, Notice Board Presentation has 9.9%, New arrivals materials show 9.6%, Periodicals Newspaper Article 9%, photocopy services 8.6%, and Library web online public access catalogue 8.5% as the available information sources usage.

Table 9: Information access from Internet

Information access form Internet	Respondents	Percentage
Online materials acquisition	276	15.0
Periodicals Subscription	236	12.8
Research Work	182	10.0
Placements / Job Opportunities	224	12.2
Downloading programs	198	10.7
Entertainment	218	12.0
Professional Occupation Growth	252	13.8
Online shopping	248	13.5
Total	1834	100

Library internet usage plays a significant role in bridging the digital divide by providing access to information and resources to individuals who may not have sufficient internet access at home. It's an essential service that helps support education, job opportunities, and community engagement. Table 9 shows the different patterns of Information access from internet by the Library Professionals. Highly Online books purchase/Verification has 15%, moderately Placements / Job Opportunities 12.2%, and lowest Research work 10%

Table 10: Career Satisfaction Levels

Career Satisfaction Levels	Respondents	Percentage
Highly satisfied	36	12.0
Satisfied	68	22.6
Moderately satisfied	126	42.0
Not satisfied	70	23.4
	300	100

Career satisfaction level refers to the degree of contentment and fulfilment that an individual experiences in their current job or employment, above table 10 clearly indicate that high level of library professional moderately 42% satisfied working in the library, 23.4% of respondents not satisfied, 22.3% of experts are satisfied, and 12% of library specialists are highly satisfied working in the library.

Conclusion

Information access pattern as accessing information through various approaches is the most preferred usage by the Library and Information Science Professionals in order to get the required information. This study throws light on the various aspects of information access and use pattern of Library and Information Science Professionals in Tamilnadu. The academic users depend to some extent on libraries treasures as well as the internet bound resources for their studies. Library and Information Science (LIS) Professionals need to manage and organize the library and has to Handle focused tasks of various library software and massive digitization, storage, access, digital reference services, electronic information services, search co-ordination and manage the archive and its access to ultimate users. Providing textbooks and reference books along with digital contents for their updated knowledge regarding their

subject and which should satisfy users according to their needs with limited sources in library, users can access most of the information through network. Library and Information Science (LIS) Professionals should maintain themselves with most modern Cognizance about contrivances, technology and professional knowledge, with full enthusiasm, and dedication.

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