CHAPTER - 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
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This chapter highlights a brief review of related Literature and similar study conducted in the field.
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0 INTRODUCTION:

Purpose of this chapter is to focus on the scanned literature on information seeking behaviour, information needs and users survey etc.

Review of related literature forms an integral part of any research report. It helps to find out what is already known and what is still known and untested. A careful scanning of the literature on related studies will help the researcher in understanding the studies of similar nature and the methodology followed.

For present investigation literature was studied at two stages. Initial review of the literature was made to get acquainted with the problem area and to define it. An initial search was made of the secondary information sources in the
field of library and information science using library literature, Library and Information Science Abstracts, Bibliographies, Dictionaries, Glossaries, Encyclopedias etc.

At the outset to formulate the problem and to check whether the research has completed on the formulated problem, the bibliographies of Association of Indian Universities (1997). Pathak Vijay and Ramaiah, (1986), P.S.G. Kumar (1987) have scanned as these cover the research conducted in the field of library and information science.

2.1 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND:

2.1.1 Methodology:

The Book, Research methods in social science written by Singh (2002) provides in its first part, clear explanations of theory, supported with a large number of examples to illustrate different steps involved in the process of designing the questionnaire. The second part contains ten questionnaires, two each for different types of libraries school, college, university, public and special. A researcher can identify a specific questionnaire appropriate to his research. For this study Investigator has taken the help of this questionnaire with certain modification.

To define the key words in research topics, Encyclopedia of Library and Information sciences (1999), Harrold's Librarians Glossary (2000), International Encyclopaedia of Social Science (1968) have been used.

2.1.2 Information:

With the march of time, information has become the central focus of human living. Information appears to be an
ambiguous term, a term that is fluid which may indicate different concepts, it is not confirmed to a single subject or discipline.

Weelisch (1972) found some 39 definitions of information, all of them are not related to each other. Manda (1991) Farradane (1979) Webster (2001) Shera (1972) Kent (1979) Opined that the term ‘information’ is being widely viewed as a subject of study.

‘Information’ as defined in Oxford English Dictionary (1995) gives rise to two propositions. They are:

- Communication of instructive knowledge or news of some fact or occurrence, and
- knowledge- Communication concerning some particular fact, subject or event.

Buckland (1991) on the other hand, has suggested three different aspects of information. In his analysis he considers:
i) information as process;
ii) information as knowledge; and
iii) information as thing.

Over the years a variety of more specific definitions of 'information' have been found.

Mahapattra and Panda (2004) states that "taking together all these definitions, it can be summed up that 'information' is the intellectual property in one form to generate enriched and meaningful messages for creation of knowledge". Mahajan (2004) also is of the similar opinion.

However in the context of user studies or seeking information behaviour the term 'information' is used as defined by Wilson (1981) as physical entity of phenomena, the channel of communication through which messages are transferred or the factual data are empirically determined and presented in a document and transmitted orally. In other words it has been used to denote factual data or advice
or pinion or a physical object such as a book or journal or the channel through which a message is conveyed, e.g. oral or written communication.

2.1.3 **Information Seeking:**

Marchionini (1989) states, "information seeking includes recognizing and interpreting of problem; establishing plan of search and evaluating research." Summers (1983) adds, 'persiving', 'responding', 'valuing' and 'organizing' and states that "information seeking is not a mechanical process, it is related to psyche, attitude and behaviour of information seeker".

Mahapattra and Panda (2004) observe that "When user comes to library, he has narrow ideas of information sources and marginal behavioral approaches. While he establishes an interaction with the information intermediary, he gets the knowledge of several pertinent sources and his attitudes develop into a very good pattern of seeking behaviour."
2.1.4 Information Seeking Theory:

Theories of information seeking are primarily grounded in Psychology and Anthropology. In order to understand complex nature of information process it would be helpful to look at the theories that seek to explain this. The three important theories are 'Constructive theory', 'Grounded theory' and 'Optimal forging theory'.

Dewey (1933), Kelly (1963), Brunder (1986) and Kulthau (1993) are the exponents of constructive theory. They opined 'information seeking' is a constructive process, two basic themes of this theory are first, 'we construct our unique personal worlds' second, construction involves the total persons incorporating thinking, feeling, and acting in a dynamic process of learning.

Kuhlthau identifies six stages of information seeking process: initiation, selection, exploration, formulation, collection and presentation.
Second theory is a 'Grounded' theory, the pioneers of this theory are Roberts (1976), Wilson (1981), Glasser and Strauss (1967), Ellis (1993). The approach of this theory is to focus on qualitative and subjective dimension and attempt to move away from traditional macro approach- to a micro approach. A water head study in this regard is the Information Needs in Social Services (INISS) Project. From the results of this pilot study it became clear that the methods employed and problems experienced by social science researchers in locating information had little in common with the traditional concerns of information retrieval research. It was also clear that "the behaviour of the social scientists bore little resemblance to the assumptions typically made about such behaviour in information retrieval evaluation". In the traditional retrieval model, a user recognized an information need comes to the retrieval system with a request based on that need. The retrieval system matches the request against representations of documents in
the system and presents the user with references to texts. The user examines the references presented and judges them for relevance to the underlying need.

The third 'Optimal forging' theory originated in ethnological studies of searching behaviour and prey selection animal and among animals. Important study in this regards were undertaken by Witherhelder and Smith (1981) this theory according to Sandarstrom (1994) is "a collection of methodologies or heuristic tools to clarify how and why individuals make the strategic choices they do".

Despite the fact that these theories are primarily Grounded in Psychology and Anthropology their contribution to the discipline of information science is noteworthy. They provide the methodologies. They provide the methodologies to understand the complex and intercrete nature of information seeking.
2.1.5 Information seeking behaviour:

The phrase, information seeking behaviour has been defined by different authors in various manners. Krikelas (1983), Howking and daly (1988), Manda (1991), Rahim (1990), Krishan Kumar (1990) opined that the act of searching or finding information seeking such an activity begins when the user perceives that the existing knowledge is less than that needed to deal with some problems with the end of that perception the process of seeking ends. Developing an instinct for information is a sort of behaviour and the process of searching the same is considered as an information seeking behaviour. Girija Kumar (1991), Singh and Lahiri (2004) state that correct appraisal of information seeking behaviour implies knowledge of:

- The purpose for which information is required,
- Environment in which users operate,
- Users skill in identifying information needs and information providers skill in providing information,
• Channel and source for shaping the information and
• Barriers to information

P.S.G Kumar (2004) concludes that Information Seeking Behaviour is the complex patterns of actions and interactions which people engage in, when seeking information of whatever kind and whatever purpose. Tripathi (2000) states that information seeking behaviour is concerned with establishing relationship with the people, information and system of an order so as to obtain the best results.

The concept, information seeking behaviour is often confused with information needs and information gathering, despite the fact that these concepts differ from a structural point of view. A difference between information seeking behaviour and information needs are identified by Wilson (1976), Guninchat and Menun (1983) Kuhlthau (1994), Sridhar (1995), Girja Kumar (1991). According to Wilson information needs involve asking question, does he need:
information? Does he know he needs information? What kind of information does he need, what factors are likely to influence needs? While information seeking behaviour involves asking what does he do about his need? How does he select information sources? How does he carry out a search for information? What factors are likely to affect his behaviour? Information seeking behaviour is a broad concept, it involves attitudes and character traits of individual as well as environmental determinants, it includes all activities comprising, finding, accessing and acquiring. According to Gunichat and Menun (1983) information needs do not follow a standard pattern. In contrast information seeking behaviour may indicate a common pattern.

Besides information needs, another term which is frequently used interchangeably with 'information seeking' is 'information gathering'. Sridhar (1995), states that information seeking precedes gathering and information gathering most of the times implies seeking. Thus
information seeking is a broad concept. Further, Sridhar (1995) states behaviour considers to be a compromise and result of multiple forces to which individual subjected to.

2.1.6 Social Science:

It is difficult to draw hard and fast lines of demarcation between the social sciences and to keep them in water tight compartment. "According to khan and kureshi *(1990), this demarcation holds good only at the academic level for study and research purpose but in actual practice and in the world of reality artificial frontier of discipline fad away. This is because every human activity is a multi facilitates activity. For convenience of study the facts may be assigned to one and anther discipline of the social science. The truth, however, is that the social sciences overlap each other." The realities of life don't correspond to such logical and convenient division of the discipline. Parekh (1990) states, there is not consensus regarding to scope of social sciences. The discipline such as psychology, geography, linguistics
may or may not be considered as a social sciences depending on one’s views”.

There are hundreds of definitions of the term ‘social science.’ As a random example Webster’s (2001) defines social science as, "the branches of science that deal with the institutions and functioning of human society and with the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society," and also "a science, such as economics or political science, dealing with a particular phase or aspect of human society."

And Webster adds: "compare behavioral science," for which it gives: "a science, such as psychology, sociology or anthropology, dealing with human action and aiming at the establishment of generalizations of man’s behaviour in society," adding "compare social science." 

The international Encyclopaedia of the social sciences, states that, "whoever uses the term social sciences, should
make clear what he includes under this heading because the social sciences differ in their scope from one generation to another and there are also differences within a generation."

There are continuing controversies, the Encyclopaedia states: "Over whether history should be considered as one of the social sciences or as a humanistic discipline; whether geography is an independent social science or a synthetic discipline that draws upon both the social sciences and the earth sciences; whether law is a social science or a body of professional knowledge; Whether psychology belongs to the social or the natural sciences; and Whether psychiatry is a social science or a branch of medicine."

Theory therefore gives no solutions as to what should be considered as social science.

After studying number of definition of social science, Hogeweg-de Haart (1984) suggests that, " everyone who is concerned with social science information should be aware of
three questions: which social science disciplines are meant, which kind of social science information is needed and what kind of social scientist needs the information. These three terms social science, social science information and social scientists have many meanings, not only in the international setting, but also within each country, depending on the scientific and practical views of those who need the information."

In social sciences another study conducted by Sharma (2003) in her study 'Access to online databases in social sciences presents a similar view and states that "social sciences is a term for all branches of study that deal with humans in their social relations. These studies are referred to in the plural as social sciences. It explores human society (Sociology), examines individual behaviour (Psychology), analyzes mankind (Anthropology) and discovers products of human society, Political Science, Law and Economics".
Hence, it is an umbrella under which so many disciplines are together entwined.

2.1.7 Social Science Information:

The term social science is explained by Haart (1984) as, "Information includes the literature meant for the dissemination of information among social scientists but also those written or audio-visual documents which serves as primary materials for social science research. Further he states that, as users of social science information, social scientists might be categorized as researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

2.1.8 Information seeking behaviour in the digital environment:

The trend in social sciences are changing and so are information needs of the related professionals.
According to Nair (2004) "the internet and world wide web have profoundly changed the way we work, live, collaborate and communicate with the rapid growth of internet and the web. We have seen a move towards a new communication paradigm: a shift from face to face human contact to human machine interaction; from paper based information transfer to electronic delivery from text centered mode to multimedia and from physical presence to tale presence or virtual presence".

Nicholas and others (2004) in their study 'Re-appraising information seeking behaviour in digital environment' means we can provide big and rich pictures of information seeking behaviour, probably, not seen before. Some of these pictures might make us reconsider what we have discovered from previous studies of information seeking behaviour undertaken in, not so sophisticated a digital information environment and employing less robust purely qualitative
method certainly, some of the data we have found challenges conventional wisdom."

Mahapatra and Panda (2004) observed that "with the advent of information and communication technologies in libraries and their massive use, the pattern of information seeking behaviour appears to have experienced a changed phenomena. Further, they state that growing popularity of internet has given ample opportunity to the users to browse a large number of sources, while surfing the net, users find several digital information objects of their choice, whether directly or indirectly useful to them. This pattern of viewing the net is developed into a behavioral model of information-seeking on the web.

Most of the studies in this areas conducted show that the availability of web based information resources and successful operation of search engine guides the behavioral pattern of information seeking.
Tyagi and Johari (2004) suggest that introduction of technology is not enough, it is important to interpret and use it freely. The ability to access, evaluate and use information from various sources should form an integral part of the search strategy. Mahajan (2004) concludes that "the social science information, like the scientific information has also been generated and disseminated in print form, in electronic form as well as online. Electronic revolution especially Internet is narrowing the information gap. The social scientists now relying more and more on computer based communication as internet based resources.

The information technology specially the internet has brought out radical changes in information communication but like every other kind of research tool, there are new skills to be learnt and when to use it.

The studies have reported that the majority of the users in social sciences have not knowledge of the use of computer
based sources and many of the users are carrying out CD/online search indirectly with the help of others.

Study conducted by Mahapatra and Panda (2004) suggests that library automation, which appears to be an order of the day and common place in all types of libraries today, needs to be implemented in all the libraries.

The study conducted by Balsubramanuiun (1999) as 'Information needs and information seeking behaviour of persons in medical education in Tamilnadu' suggests that, "the challenge we face is to maintain, nature an optimize the resources of the libraries with the help of new technology. Hence the librarians must be ready emotionally, professionally and financially to accept and make good use of new technology. According to the another study conducted by Guha (1994), 'Information seeking and communication behaviour of Indian scientists,' states that online search facilities are extremely limited in the country, at present now
appears to have a very close resemblance to finding from similar surveys conducted elsewhere, even though information resources and accessibility differ.

For the purpose of comprehensive understanding of the information seeking behaviour of the social scientists the relevant available literature has been analysed and presented in the following pages under four broad groupings as user characteristics; methods of seeking information; use of sources of information and use of libraries

2.2 USER CHARACTERISTICS:

A number of user characteristics influence the pattern of use of information sources by social scientists in a particular situation. Some of the characteristics that have been identified in prior research include social scientists characteristics such as age, gender, institutions, designation academic qualification, subject specialization, and knowledge of language etc.
2.2.1 Gender/Age:

Various studies on information seeking have asked a number of questions on age group and gender of the users to ascertain whether these characteristics have any bearing on the process of information seeking. INFROSS study (1988) mentions that though differences between age groups can suggest changes in patterns of use but it is not so incase of gender variable. In Sethi’s study (1990) majority of the respondents are in the age group of 31-50 consisting of experienced and active teachers. Further male outnumbered the female respondents. Steig (1981) found that young historians tended to be more active library users than olderes. In the study conducted by Karsidappa and others (1989) majority of the respondents fall in the age group of 31-50 years. Mahapattra and Panda (2004) in their study 'Information science and journalism' found that majority of the journalists belong to middle aged group of 30 to 40, who
predominate the profession of journalism. Younger social scientists appear to make greater use of social science literature and of colleagues than did their older counterparts. Differences between older and younger social scientists are due to differences in their training as well as to differential access to and familiarity with using various information sources. Reddy and Karsidappa (1997) observe that users awareness of sources and access to tools very with age, experience, professional, educational and managerial status.

2.2.2 Designation/Institution:

while studying the information seeking behaviour of the users, various studies have mentioned the designations and institutions of the respondents. Krishan kumar's (1973) focus is on Sapru House Library which has been used by a wide variety of researchers from the all over India, the users are categorized as teachers, research scholars, research staff, journalist and students. Krishan kumar's (1990) other study 'information seeking behaviour of sociologist' the users are
M.Phil and Ph.D. students and teachers of university of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University. Sethi's population of study belong primarily to two premier central universities namely DU and JNU. Respondents are from all strata of academic community, Sachdeva and Sardana (1990) undertake the same institutions for their study, the users include faculty members and research scholars. Users of the present study are also academicians and research scholars in social sciences.

2.2.3 **Subject specialization:**

Krishan kumar's analysis of the subject specialization of the respondents lies within the field of social sciences, the largest number of respondents have indicated international relations as their subject of specialization followed by history political science, economics and international law. Sethi's (1990) respondents belong to the subject fields of History, Political Science, International Relations, Areas studies Economics and Sociology.
2.2.4 Knowledge of language:

In the free flow of knowledge, language plays as one of the barriers. There are a lot of social science books in English language mainly because of the widespread use of English as the medium for study and teaching, especially at the higher levels of education. But the governments initiative to switch over to Marathi as the official language gave a fillip to the production of more books in the Marathi language.

general, review of literature summarizes that the social scientists greatly depend on research materials in English.

In the era of information explosion the knowledge of foreign languages certainly facilitate the research. The study conducted by Skeleton (1973) Stieg(1981) Salter (1988) Krishan Kumar (1990) reveal that social science is often concerned with local circumstances dictated by culture whereas science is more international. These studies made a similar conclusion by showing that social scientists do not feel that their study or research had been restricted or constrained in any way because of language problem. Moreover, majority of the social scientists do not attempt to keep up with research published in foreign languages. A surprising number do not even read languages that would seem indispensable. Krishan Kumar (1990) brings out certain interesting aspects in Indian context where a number of regional languages exist besides Hindi, the national language. He establishes that English still dominates the field of
research and only a small percentage of researchers are able to read literature in Hindi. This is due to fact that these teachers and researchers in the field of international studies belong to non Hindi regions. He also observes that except the teachers and researchers in international studies, the percentage of respondents able to read literature in foreign languages is rather low.

Sethi (1990) further elaborates this point in his study. He observes that English remains the primary language for information search by the social scientists in India. Though substantial literature is being produced here in regional languages, it seldom forms part of the material used for research purpose. "To top it all, social science research done in languages other than English is not accepted by some of the Indian universities!"

The study conducted by Guha on the other hand presented an alternative view for language barrier " One
important relevant aspect of the language barrier is the information user's awareness or estimation of the amount of useful of their unfamiliarity with some languages. The most important foreign languages according to the respondents were German, French, Russian and Japanese in that order."

2.3 INFORMATION SEEKING PROCEDURE:

Methods of seeking information comprise of formal as well as informal methods. INFROSS (1988) study establishes that informal methods are used more than the formal ones by the Social Scientists and Social Science researchers.

Wimberley and Jones (1989) mention four methods on which the scholars rely while seeking information: references in the publications, communications from colleagues, formal bibliography and librarians.

Case (1986) examines the methods of information seeking of Social Scientists and Humanities which include
Historians and Political Scientists, in his opinion, means of information collection on the part of these scholars include reading, talking with colleagues, listening to lecturers, conducting surveys, analyzing archival data, examining artifacts, participant observation and so on. He concludes that while methods of gathering data very considerably between the disciplines, certainly the printed word is the most influential medium of information in all fields.”

Stieg (1981) finds use of references in books or journals, specialized bibliographies, book reviews, library catalogues, abstracts or indexes by researchers in the history are in the descending order. The informal methods like discussion with colleges and librarians are used the least. These studies reveal that Social Scientists are prepared to consult almost every one except librarian. Karisiddappa (1989) and others reveal that library catalogue is the most important and frequently used method by the majority of historians in locating information, this is followed by references or
bibliographies, discussion with colleagues and approach to librarian.

Barua and Tripathi (1988) found that review articles ranks at the top, followed by references or bibliographies, library catalogue and abstracting and indexing journals respectively.

Subrahmanym (1989) in his study points out that the researchers practice the following methods to access the documents not available in the library: purchase personally, visit other libraries, procure thoughts, interlibrary loan service and from the personal collection of the supervisor.

Krishan Kumar's (1990) 'study of the sociologists' has also found that discussion with colleagues within a organization, consultation with supervisor and experts in the field have received high priority, researchers rely more on informal methods of seeking information during their research process.
Manda (1991) found that reviews are often used by all Sociologists in keeping abreast with new developments in Sociology, browsing in the bookshops is the next important method of keeping upto date.

Jeshi John (1997) Sethi (1990) Prasad and Tripathi (1998) found that Social Scientists made very little use of abstracting and indexing periodicals whereas the Physical Scientists used them to a large extent.

Tripathi (2000) found that Social Scientists who had interaction with colleagues working in other organization was just a minority of (32%) or (22.86%) and other (77.14%) replied it negative.

Shokeen and Koushik (2002) in their study 'information seeking behavior of Social Scientists of Haryana Universities' concludes that Social Scientists depend more on
documentary sources to keep abreast of latest information in their respective field of specialization.

Ojha (2004) in his study 'Information needs of journalist in India' points that journalists rely more heavily on open source types within informal channels of information for their day to day work. Personal communication with journalists within the newspaper organization is that most frequently used source type within formal information channel.

2.3.1 Accidental Discovery:

Accident should not happen in well-planned research, but most of the Social Scientists seem to have experienced them. Despite the familiarity of the researchers with accidental discovery it seems hard to quantify and harder to evaluate. INFROSS (1971) study has found that scanning periodicals is the common method of making accidental discoveries, followed closely by spotting a relevant reference while looking up something else, the third comments method
is conversation with colleague, the next method is library browsing, other methods as browsing in the bookshops or receiving offprint were far less common.

Stieg (1981) similarly finds that scanning of current periodicals is the most common method of accidental discovery.

Sridhar (1995) use the term ‘accidental acquisition of information. He mentions in his finding that though it rarely occurs to Indian Space technologists they certainly consider it as an important way of finding information.

Balsubramanyan (1999) points, beside getting bibliographical references in a usual way users generally get relevant information in an accidental or unplanned way in unfocused browsing and scanning off literature which is termed as accidental acquisition of information.

The review of the study summarized that accidental discovery of information form the part of information seeking.
2.3.2 DELEGATION OF INFORMATION GATHERING WORK:

Delegation of information gathering work is an important part of information seeking process.

Most of the studies carried out so far have given importance to find out whether the scientists or Social Scientists or engineers are willing to delegate literature search (Sometimes Search for information) to library staff or others.

Skelton (1973) observes that unlike Physical Scientists, Social Scientists do not delegate literature search work. She believes that such a difference is largely due to the fact that information officers are simply not available to researchers in Social Sciences.

Sethi (1990) finds that substantial majority (82%) of the respondents are in favour of information search to a documentation officer or a research assistant on the questions of delegation for collection of information and
checking of references. Talwar (1997), In her study 'Method of seeking information by women researcher in History and Political Science: A case study, observed that respondents relied heavily on their own efforts. Other modes like research assistants, computerized information search, librarian and library staff got lower ranks. Therefore collecting and checking of information through delegation has received little preference by women researchers”.

Manda (1991) states in his study 'Information seeking behavior of Sociologists' concludes that(83%)of the Sociologist never ask librarians to do any literature search for them. The major reasons given is that teaching staff think that it is not the duty of the librarian to do literature search. Secondly some sociologists think that librarians are already overloaded and therefore can not sustain additional work such as literature search.
Balsubramanyan (1999) found that "majority of the respondents delegate information gathering work either moderately or occasionally. They have cited major reasons for delegation as making team or group members involved and lack of time. On the other hand, the reasons for non-delegation are that users believe that the searching process is an important as information itself which signifies the serendipity value of information.

2.3.3 Invisible College:

Katz (1982) finds that most studies of 'invisible college' have been limited to the scientific community, but the few profiles available for other information seekers confirm the general pattern followed by scientists. Further, he states that when scientists, social Scientists and humanists are asked to list their information sources, all, note that informal personal contact is valuable.

Brittain (1970) observes that informal channels play a major role in the communication of new ideas in social
sciences in general and of information related to ongoing research in psychology in particular.

Line (1971) presenting the findings of INFROS study, identified some differences among social scientist in using informal channels. Lines finds that the bigger the team, the more likely the researchers are to discuss their works with their colleagues.

However Stieg (1981) argues that the Social Scientists do not have a well developed invisible college as to physical scientists but depend primarily on printed sources of information. She also highlights the importance of invisible college in the process of information seeking. This is mainly among the historians, Stieg further comments that the absence of an invisible college among historians can be attributed to the two factors (a) Lack of institutional arrangements to develop contacts, which is closely related to the lack of financial means (b) the relative unimportance of
currency in this field. Sethi (1990) concludes "that the concept of invisible college is alien to a majority of the respondents. Even among a few participants, the concept revolved around ideologies rather than the subject. However Chapman (1980) feels differently. In his view, the historians depend to a greater or larger extent on the invisible college for gaining access to information.

Guha (1997) observed that respondents were not quite familiar with the term 'Invisible College', while for some it meant only participation in seminars, workshops, lecturers, etc.

Talwar (1997) in her study 'method of seeking information by women researcher in history' observed that though the practice of communicating with subject experts and co-researchers is very much common in the process of research, they never utilized it consciously as a method of acquiring information.
NISSAT study (1993) also observed that some of the respondents were not quite familiar with the expression 'Invisible College'. A few respondents could not quantify the amount of information thus received.

Sridhar (1995) in his study 'Information seeking behaviors of the Indian Space technologists' found that "Those who do not have assistants and those who believe strongly in serendipity value of information searching process have naturally tended not to delegate information of 'invisible college' and user dependence is more on informal modes of communication than the formal".

2.4 USE OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Considerable research has been done in the past about various sources of information used in the area of science, social sciences and humanities. Various studies have been carried out to know about the sources of information required and used by users in Social Sciences.
Krishan Kumar’s (1973) study of ‘Sapru House Library’—observes that the researchers in Social Sciences use the following materials in the descending orders: Books, periodicals, News Paper files, Press cuttings, Documents, Doctoral Dissertations, Microfilms, Maps, Private Papers and Microfiche. He concludes that Indian Scholars seem to use traditional kinds of literature more than other ones and in the area of Social Sciences, the role of books still appears to be predominant, unlike in the natural sciences. Thus, books, along with the periodicals, are the mainstay of Indian Scholars”.

Sachdeva and Sardana (1990) list the relevant documentary sources used in the field of Political Science in the descending order: Books, Periodicals, Survey / Reports, News Papers, Government Documents, theses and dissertations, and conference proceedings.
Karsidappa (1989) finds that among all the sources of information, the books and monographs are the most frequently used sources. These are followed by periodical articles, manuscripts, newspapers, conference proceedings, theses, research reports, etc.

Subrahmanyam (1989) concludes that besides the documentary sources, informal sources such as research guides, other teachers, colleagues and experts form an important category of information source for doctoral candidates in Social Sciences.

are the books, first in the rank and periodicals stand as second. Sethi's study (1990) finds that among the lesser used information sources are indexing and abstracting services, book reviews, conference proceedings, dissertation and theses. News Paper clippings, non book sources like archives, manuscripts, maps, diaries/correspondence museum objects, audio-visual material microforms are used by specialists of a few specific disciplines. Most of the studies in library and information science particularly in the area of information seeking behavior of the Social Science users confirmed this fact.

Singh and Lahiri (2004) found that 'professionals has expressed their views that they need current information contained in the Primary sources. Dependence on retrospective sources of information is also considered high (54.76%) importance given to secondary and tertiary sources is relatively low in comparison with others making 50.00% and 40.48% respectively.
Mahapatra and Panda (2004) in their study found that journalists give priority to primary documents for their use.

P. Geeta (2004) found that documentary sources of information are given importance by majority of pure science scholars in most of the discipline but in some disciplines like mathematics and statistics, informal communication is given much importance.

Kuffalikar and Mahakulkar (2003) in their study found that the teaching faculty and research scholars directly make use of the primary sources like journals reports, patents, standards etc and secondary sources like text books, monographs abstracts, bibliographies.

Padmamma and others (2002) states that VISL Scientists prefer to scan the information through formal channels as news paper (56.43%), Journals (76.19%) and
books (60.71%) and through informal channels (91.81%). Prefer television followed by radio (38.10%).

It can be concluded that Social Scientists seek their information from a wide variety of sources but still they are print oriented.

2.5 USE OF LIBRARIES:

The importance of the library to the social scientists is widely acknowledged. Several studies had proved the library to the social scientists is, what the laboratory is to the scientists.

James (1980) states "In using a library, the users not only pursue their own ends but also relate the library to them. Further he states that "what they want from the library, what they do with the library, how the library can best provide for them, will depend on the individual, his purposes and the place of the library in his bank of resources for fulfilling them".
Line(1971) has discussed the use of libraries by social scientists. Among the heaviest users were the historians and political scientists. The study revealed that only (3%) of the respondents have not used any library. Roberts (1980) finds that personal convenience is also an important factor in determining the use of libraries. Balsubrahmanyan's (1999) study also attempts to establish a positive correlation with the location, availability and accessibility of information sources, services generated and attitude of library staff in making the use of the library.

Skelton's (1973) study further adds that the use made of library services is very much related to the quality of services provided and this may vary from one environment to another.

Case (1986) finds that American historians use a bewildering number of libraries and archives that contain materials of interests to them. Though the most commonly used library is found to be a Library of Congress, the
historians visit almost all the important academic libraries, several of them also use the libraries outside USA particularly the British libraries.

In a case study of Sapru House library Krishan Kumar (1973) examines the reasons for which the user prefer this library, so as to identify the strong points with regard to the collection, the services offered. It is observed that(97%)of the respondents have preferred to use this library because of its collection,(86%) have found that collection in their field of interest continued to be strong enough to meet their requirements,(85%) of the respondents have preferred this library because of its services. Krishan Kumar concludes that strong correlation exists between the collection and services of a library with the frequency of use. He further states that among other factors that influence the high use of Sapru House Library are location, facilities, availability of material, easy access for material, academic atmosphere, the
cooperative nature and courtesy of the staff, convenient working hours, good classification and documentation.

Karsidappa and others in their study have tried to ascertain the usefulness of information services offered by NASSDOC. It is found that bibliographical services and reference services are most useful for more than half of the respondents, while consultancy services, current awareness and referral service are moderately useful to most useful for more than (40%) of the respondents. Abstracting and indexing services are moderately useful for the (45.65%), most useful for (32.60%) and least useful for (17.39%) of the respondents. Based on this rating of services, the authors suggest that NASSDOC should plan, develop and streamline in order to meet and satisfy the requirements of social science researchers.

Sethi's (1990) study on library use points out that the area specialists make frequent use of libraries. He further
identifies a uniform pattern of the use of library services by
different categories of respondents, with 'Loan of Books' and
Reference Service' being in the largest demand, and 'Inter-
Library Loan' and 'Translation Service' being the least
demanded.

Durvasa Babu (1994) from his study found that
"Information generation and library use found that university
teachers mainly depend on university library, its resources
and its services for seeking information".

Shokeen and Kaushik (2002) concludes that. In
addition to their Institutional Libraries most of them use
other libraries especially situated in Delhi.

Sethi (1990) also presents the similar views.

Vijayalaxmi and Maheswarappa (2001) observed "all
respondents except two are using the university library.
Reasons for not using the library are due to irrelevant
collection, poor organization, and unfriendly staff of the library".

Recently-Quite a number of studies Jebaraj (2004), P.Geeta (2004), Kuffalikar and Mahakulkar (2003) Mahapatra and Panda (2004) have been carried out which can easily explain the importance of library. In the context of the Frequency of the visit of the Library is reviewed, the study conducted by Mahapattra and Panda (2004) found that, "Journalists prefer to use their personal collection rather than to visit libraries. Thus the frequency of their visit to other library is not very much on the cards".

Rawat and Kumar (2002) states that higher education libraries have a particular importance for the social sciences and the social scientists. Universities and other advanced institutions are major centers of social science research, and nearly every country has important collections in his sector.
Sing and Lahiri (2004) presents "a controversial findings of their study and states that for number of information needs, the health professionals use a number of information channels, among them private media is the most preferred one, which is followed by electronic media/laboratory clinic and study tour. Use of library information center is far below the desired rank".

Skelton (1973) compared the results of the study of Physical Scientists with those of INFROSS and concluded that libraries were not considered useful by the physical scientists as social scientists.

Padmanama and others (2002) reported that "31% VISL Scientists feel that information provided by the library is most useful and around 10% feel moderately useful. Further they states that no library in the earth can satisfy all the needs of users".
The bulk of studies, Barua and Tripathi (1988) Sethi (1990), Prasad and Tripathi (1998) Guha (1994) Chaudhary (1994), Joseph (1993), Manda (1991) that have been conducted on seeking of information or information needs lead one to conclude that highest percentage of user, using other libraries, a surely indicative of non availability of information or reading material from the parent organization or their library and institution.

Jessi John's (1997) study 'Information needs, use pattern and use behaviour or social science researchers' finds that 'irrespective of the users in the different disciplines in social science, majority of scholars opined that book collection in their libraries are adequate to meet their research needs. Reference books and periodicals are partially adequate to scholars in disciplines like Sociology, Economics, Law etc. But high rate of inadequacy is felt in the collections of nonbook materials, indexing, abstracting and reviewing periodicals.
All these studies suggest that adequacy of collection determines of frequency of use of a particular library. Moreover these studies observed that the utilization of resources and services of the particular library mainly depend on the users awareness. The awareness has its impact on utilization of its resources.

One of the interesting findings of the studies of Jessi John (1997), Sethi (1990), Krishan Kumar (1990), while ascertaining the services from library professional found that "majority of scholars in social science are not interested in seeking help from librarians in their research Programmes. Only 30% seek help at the time of preparation of bibliographies and initiating work on research. Moreover Krishan Kumar states that scholars do not have faith in library staff to provide information they might require. They think that librarians are ill educated for the purpose".
2.6 CONCLUSION:

After scanning through various studies on information seeking behaviour in general and social science in particular, certain inferences can be drawn. It is found that the concerned subject follows into an area of lesser investigation in Marathwada. In India, though some attempts have been made to explore information seeking behaviour of the social scientists dealing specifically with History, Economics, and Sociology, a few studies in the information seeking behaviour of the social scientists as a whole has not been undertaken in India, except the study under taken by Sethi. Moreover, the few studies conducted have been undertaken in different environment than regional. Therefore, it is imperative to study the information seeking behaviour of social scientists in the Marathwada context comprehensively. In the light of above mentioned factors it may be concluded that there is a
wide scope to conduct such studies. The present study is distinct because of its scope and dimension. It aims to be a comprehensive study covering several dimensions of information seeking behaviour of the social scientists in Marathwada.