REVIEW OF
RELATED LITRATURE
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In any worthwhile study in a field of research, the researcher must have an adequate knowledge with the work that has already been done in the area of his/her research.

The literature review is of value for the present investigation by helping the researcher to regard this study as contribution to a larger topic of which the inquiry at hand is only a part rather than as isolated or esoteric collections of facts.

This chapter presents an overall review of studies conducted in abroad as well as in India regarding the topic reading habits of library users. The investigator reviewed only those studies, which are similar to the present study.

This is an attempt to identify, locate and synthesize complete the various aspects of the research topic. Research reports, articles, books and other materials concerning

There have been significant changes in the field of user study leading to a shift in both conceptualization and research design with the adoption of a more holistic perspective to the study of information needs and information seeking behavior of the users. Although the history of users studies dates back to the 1920’s, investigations of scholarly communication are relatively recent. These studies appeared first in the United States in the late 1950’s, while Merton is given credit for his pioneer intellectual work in this
area, Menzel was first to produce a research report in the scholarly communication area.

In this chapter considerable amount of literature on the reading habits, has been extensively reviewed.

Ramesh & Karisiddappa conducted a study to investigate the information needs of engineering scientists of regional research laboratory, Bhubaneshwar. They concluded that there has been 100% agreement among scientists to have current research information in their field of research, use online database for literature research, scan current periodicals for updating their knowledge, and increase manpower for library and documentation section.

Dee and Blazek found that all physicians concert that a discussion with the colleagues is easily accessible source and it also provides immediate, accurate and reliable solution. Thus it saves time and effort required to consult books and journals. A majority of physicians (83.3%) attended local meetings. The aim to attend these meetings was to exchange ideas with colleagues, to take educational courses and to keep themselves abreast of the current practices.

Slater and Fisher not only found highest success rates of searches 67% in core subjects than peripheral subjects 58% but also found higher demand for information on core subject in academic libraries.
and on peripheral problems in other types of libraries. The demand for information on core areas was highest 61% among scientists and lowest 46% among engineers and demand for information on peripheral and unfamiliar subjects was highest among engineers compared to skilled workers, technicians, teachers etc. In support of this, Wood also found that 27.5% of the mechanical engineers needed information outside mechanical engineering. Further, the highest demand for information on practical problems was from engineers 16% and lowest from scientist 6%.

Hanson in his analysis of 'acts of library use' found that a thrust of use was for information on a specific subject and remainder mainly for browsing or reading current journals.

Krishan kumar conducted a study of information seeking behavior of sociologists of university of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. The results indicated that discussion with colleagues within organization, consolation of supervisor and knowledge persons (peers) in the field seem to be on high priority it was found sociologists used books heavily as compared with articles in journals.

Korah and Deverajan concluded that current periodicals and the most important sources of information for scientists followed by back volumes of periodicals and books respectively. The results also highlighted that 72.13% users expressed that they obtain
information by scanning the users of various availed by 30.06% scientists.

The research findings of Sridhar revealed that library catalogues, colleagues and fellow professionals, direct browsing of library shelves, expert in the field, citations in current reading material are the major sources of bibliographic information to the Indian space technologists of ISRO satellite center (ISAE), Bangalore. Only 6% of the space technologists have frequently delegated information-gathering work to their juniors, whereas 40% delegated it moderately or occasionally. On an average 9.2 hours per week or one fourth of their working time they spent for gathering work-related information. They spent slightly more on formal and documentary sources of information. The study concluded that the information seeking behavior of the Indian space technologist varies significantly with status, qualifications, nature of work, specialization and professional activities and achievements.

B Guha made a study under the little “information seeking and communication behavior of Indian Scientists”. In the study sample of 148 respondents was chosen from six research and research cut teaching institutions in Delhi. These institutions were IIT, Health family welfare, Jamiya Miliya Islamia, JNU and Publications and Information Directorate of CSIR.
The findings of this study were:

i. It was observed that 28% respondents visit libraries to select and borrow books, more than 26% to browse through new books, nearly 12% to consult abstracting and indexing periodicals and over 12% to consult reference books.

ii. 46% of the respondent visited to library at least once a week and more than 21% almost everyday, 17% twice month and 9% occasionally. Nearly 6% did not visit but get materials used from the library.

iii. In regard to relative importance of types of documents 38.5% to journal articles, 27.2% to books, 11.4% to Conference papers, 8.8% to technical reports, 7.2% to thesis and 2.5% to trade literature.

iv. When face to face with the language barrier, 57 respondents prepared to take the step “get a translation done”, 53 would opt for “try to find out if a translation is available”, and 46 said they would just read on English abstract, 12 would take other steps.

v. There were only 21 responses in the affirmative from the entire sample.

vi. Most of them spent more time in reading; similarly they spent less time in scanning recent uses of periodicals then either in discussions with colleagues or in writing, preparing abstracts etc. or in delivering lectures.
Lalitha, M made a study under the title “Information seeking behavior of Medical and Engineering personal: A comparative study with reference to their library use”.

The study was aimed to identify, in quantitative terms, the various categories of medical and engineering personnel and to ascertain their information requirements and the types of materials needed by them. To find out the response of the users towards the existing systems, to find out the reading pattern to make a comparative study between the two, to find out the source and services in the respective fields to satisfy the information needs of the two categories. The methodology used in the study includes literature search survey using questionnaire, supplemented with interview. Randomly 170 questionnaires were distributed.

The findings of this study were:

i. The engineering community showed a lower percentage or response, especially the students, practitioners and teachers were better, on the whole, and the medical community showed more interest.

ii. There is not much difference between the practitioners in both the fields with regard to their research activities.

iii. Except for minor differences the type of information sought is the same for the medical and engineering communities.
iv. Both use their own libraries very frequently. Majority of the doctors and engineers frequently use libraries other than their own once in a fortnight.

Jamie L Hassard Wilkins and Gloria J Lekie” made a study under the title “university professional and managerial staff members employees at a Canadian university”. The study had two objectives

i. To examine the information seeking habits of the non-faculty professionals and managerial staff of a large academic institution, namely the university of western Ontario.

ii. To explore what role the library system played in meeting the information needs of these groups. 148 surveys were made at a response rate of 41%. It was found that when respondents visited a library on campus, the majority (53%) did so to consult a reference book, such as a handbook or directory, about a third of the survey respondents indicated that they used campus libraries frequently. The majority used then only rarely or never.

iii. It was suggested that our understanding of the information needs and information – seeking patterns of professionals and managerial employees could be greatly enhanced thorough future research. Any efforts in this direction should be with the goal of enabling university employees at all levels to make more informed and effective decision in running the university.
Ruth L Noble and Carol Coughlin made a study under the title "Information-seeking practices of Canadian Academic chemists: A study was carried out to investigate patterns of research and information seeking practices of chemists in Canadian university."

The purpose was to obtain a better understanding of academic chemists' information needs, preferences and practices. 12 departments from nine provinces were then selected to achieve a geographical balance. Questionnaires were sent to individual's faculty in each of the department selected to be surveyed. 355 questionnaires sent, 131 usable returns represented a 37% return rate; the 131 respondents represent the primary subjects of chemistry and included analytical (11), inorganic (29), organic (38) and physical (35) chemists as well as 18 biochemists. The findings of present study was -

i. Browsing print journals in their specialty was ranked highest (85%) of all activities, out of the 131 respondents 98 have personal subscriptions to journals.

ii. 99% had computers, 89% had access to communication software and 87% were connected to the campus network, CD-ROM equipped computers were available to 64% of the chemists.

iii. Obstacles to using electronic information technologies revealed that 73% respondents lack time to explore technologies, 38% lack operating funds, 35% lack training
in how to access electronic resources, 4% lack information on available database/resources, 15% lack hardware, 15% lack software, 11% lack interest or need.

Veena Saraf and others made a study under the title “A study of relationship among information needs, channels and sources”. To find out the relationship among information needs, channels and sources and their impact on background variables namely age, sex, qualifications and status and to identify the relationship between the use of channels. The method wide for data collection was questionnaire. Major findings were-

i. The respondents need information for keeping abreast with the latest developments.

ii. The channels used for information gathering were lectures, seminars and personal collection.

iii. The sources used were journals and research reports.

Neena Thelwar Kanungo made an attempt to investigate the methods of seeking information by the women researchers in the disciplines history and political science in the university of Delhi and JNU. The investigator collected the data from 130 women research scholar through questionnaire. The study disclose the following findings –
i. The main purpose of the women researches was to collect information for writing either M.Phil or Ph.D. thesis.

ii. The women researchers in history carry out their work in some broad areas such as ancient Indian history, modern Indian history and world history.

Fidzani conducted a survey to determine the information seeking behavior and use of information sources by graduate students at university of Botswana and indicated that guidance in the use of library resources and services is necessary. Periodicals and textbooks are the most popular sources of information for course work and research. He suggested that students need to be brought to know how to use the library.

Dennis N. Ocholla made a study under the title "Insights into information seeking and communication behavior of Academics". The present study discussed the information seeking behavior of academics in relation to the productivity of academics in South African University, with particular reference to the university of Zululand. The aim of the study was to identify the type of information resources frequently used by academics, whether they differ with discipline and how academics learn of the existence of the information sources they use to determine why they look for information, to find out what sources of information are used by the academics, to find out how academics disseminated information once they get it. In the present study a survey was targeted at
academics in the 6 faculties and 54 teaching departments comprising 327 teaching staff at the university of Zululand. Questionnaires were used for data collection in all cases. It was established that the nature of the discipline and the rank of the academic, which normally corresponds with the academic qualification, experience, exposure and research productivity level.

Prasad and Tripathi revealed that the journals were most frequently used sources of information among the physical scientists as well as social scientists of Banaras Hindu University. It was found that 77.77% physical scientists made use of formal channel of information. The percentage of social scientists using abstracting and indexing periodicals and current contents was significantly low as compared to that of physical scientists. A majority consisting of 66.66% physical scientists, whereas 94.12% social scientists used socio-economic information followed by retrospective information which was used by 82.35% of them. The study concluded with general impression that whole library needs to be improved tremendously as suggested by 76.4% social scientists.

Rita Marcella and Coraeme Baxter made a study under the title “The information needs and the information seeking behavior of a national sample of the population in the UK with special reference to needs related to citizenship”. This study reported the results of a survey of
information needs and information seeking behavior of a national sample of the UK population. The project was funded by British Library research and innovation center and comprised a survey by questionnaire covering all regions of the UK. 1294 responses were received giving a called demographically representative response rate of 45.7% major finding include that the majority of respondents had suggest information post (59.4%) and that an even greater number predicated a future need for information (78.4%), over three quarters of respondents said that they would use public libraries and between half and three quarters would approach post offices, government departments or family and friends. Face to face communications and reading a book were the most popular means of accessing information but a wide variety of other preferred options were cited. Only a small proportion expressed a preference for using a computer to seek information and there was a clear emphasis on public libraries as an appropriate location for accessing computerized information. A highly significant majority (79.2%) believed that access to information was very important, for exercising their right as citizens. Many significant variables in terms of age, gender, status and region were found.

Basu found that 96.8% of the respondents use the ‘Sri Venkateswara University Library’ for collecting information, whereas ‘off-prints’ is being used by about 60% of the teacher respondents. ‘Personal collections from friends/colleagues’ are being used by about 57% of
the respondents. As for the other sources being used by 23% of the respondents.

G. Devarajan made this study in the humanities departments, university of Kerala to found that the favorite form of information sources for the Humanities scholars are books. Out of the 46 scholars surveyed 50 % prefer to read books whereas 30.43% to read reference books and 15.2% scholars to read periodicals in order to meet their research needs. The scholars sparingly use secondary information sources like indexing and abstracting periodicals; bibliographies etc.. Regarding the use of non-book materials only 10.86% of the total population gave a positive answer. Perhaps the nominal use of the non-book materials may be due to the inadequacy of such materials and also the lack of proper equipments to use these materials.

Menzel defined the goals of user studies as follows:

i. To distinguish the types of information needs which scientists have and to determine in what respect they remain unsatisfied.

ii. To examine the means and the occasions of scientific information exchanging in order to single out the features which make them more less able to meet the scientists several needs; and
iii. To analyze the characteristics of the scientist's specialization, his institution and his outlook as possible condition which infamous his needs for information, his opportunities for satisfying them, and hence his information gathering habits and satisfaction.

Rosenberg reported result of a study to find out why individual prefer certain information gathering methods, and what attributes of information gathering methods are important to research and non-research groups. Three hypothetical situations common to research projects were posed as questions. Each respondent ranked eight methods of gathering information for each question and then ranked the eight methods according to the ease of use and amount of information expected. Thus, for each group of respondents, research and non-research, there were three sets of ranks within each group. The degree of consistency in ranking was analyzed for each question separately and then average for the set of all three together. No significant differences were found between the two groups in their ranking of information methods. Both groups gave essentially the same response when asked to rate the methods according to ease of use and the amount of information expected. However, for both groups a significant correlation between the ease of use ranking and methods used were revealed. Rosenberg found that ease of use of information-gathering technique was more important than the amount of information as expected using the
technique. Allen and Gerstberger conducted a study of information-seeking behavior of engineers and found that accessibility and ease of use are stronger correlates of channel use than technical quality.

Lin and Garvey conducted a study at John Hopkins University, where it was found that “Usefulness” was different for each communication channel by discipline.

According to wood, those personnel engage on research and development (Including academic workers) tend to rely heavily, in their use of formal sources of information, on journals.

Olaisen in his study “Towered a theory of information seeking behavior among scientists and scholars focused on the analysis of faculty’s information seeking in a decentralized Norwegian college system established in 1970’s. His findings indicated that the context of the Norwegian college system and demographic variables of the population of faculty were an important basis for understanding information seeking. He suggested that a majority ranked journals as their most important formal information sources, and citations from journals and books as their most important tools, whereas bibliographical tools, the library catalogues and library staff had little importance. A majority almost never visited other academic libraries, while public libraries were most frequently visited, and bookstores were regarded as
important information outlets. He also suggested that there was a wide individual variance in the perceived usefulness of conferences.

Rosen bloom and Wolek observed that when the availability of information is pointed out to the physical scientists and engineers, they are equally likely to obtain the information from people. Inside their organization, while the engineers willingly obtained the information from outsiders.

Kremer's study was undertaken to gain insight on how technical information flows through formal and informal channels among engineers in a design company. The engineers in this study were not involved in R & D. The reasons given most frequently to search for information is problem-solving, colleagues within the company are contacted first for needed information, followed by colleagues outside the company. In terms of the technical literature, handbooks are most important, followed by standards and specifications. Libraries are not important sources of information and are used infrequently by company engineers.

A review of the literature conducted by Paisley showed that American Physicists used informal information system (Personal contacts, listening to papers, obtaining preprints) heavily while British Physicists relied especially on formal sources of information (Journals, abstracting Services).
Kasperson reported that innovative physical scientists used cues from other people to access published information more often than other groups. At the same time they appeared to have and maintain a well-tuned network. Also, they tended to value people they met at conventions and conferences more highly than other physical scientists. On the other hand non-innovative physical scientists considered their peers a useful source of information more than did other groups.

Lancaster and Smith reviewed the scientific communication and major findings from user studies and noticed that invisible college and private files of notes, preprints, off prints as important sources of information for the scientists. They report that scientists value convenience, improved selectivity in information services, and more rapid access to research results. The significance of the invisible college and the utility of private files suggest that minimizing effort is a major factor in scientists’ information behavior.

Malhotra presented user studies in libraries of agricultural universities. He reported a result of a study of the role of faculty is promoting library use by postgraduate students of H.A.U Hissar and P.A.U Ludhiana. He identified and ranked statistically a total variable, which could be used to predict.

Whether the method of instruction used by teachers is library based or otherwise. Malhotra also further studied the relationship between the adequacy of library collections and the daily library use.
Abifarın examined the information seeking behavior of agricultural students in selected Nigerian universities. The results showed that students make less use of the library than expected as over 58.5% of respondents indicated that after attending formal lectures, they first turn to their lectures for further information rather than to the library.

Kaur studied the reading materials used by the postgraduate students in agricultural universities based upon the replies received from the respondents of two agricultural universities manly H.A.U., Hissar and P.A.U., Ludhiana. The study deal with kinds of reading materials used, the frequency of use of different kinds of reading materials, number of scientific and technical periodicals read frequently and user demand for the reading materials and level of satisfaction.

Bairathi, R. and Sharma, B.M. conducted a study of the communication climate and its dimensions as perceived by the respondents of various categories viz. teaching, research, extension and administration. The study revealed that maximum number of respondents favored the communication climate prevailing in the agricultural universities. Various dimensions of communication climate like general communication; superior’s openness, upward communication opportunity, and quality of information were also perceived from moderately to highly satisfactory. The study also indicated that the highest perception of general communication by administrators might be attributed to the fact that these
people have maximum opportunity to communicate with all categories of employees in the agricultural university. Attitude and values towards superiors, interpersonal trust, communication contingency structure, communicational job satisfaction, cohesiveness, recognition and decision making were the important traits, which influenced the communication climate in the agricultural university.

Ammini found that 76.47% of the respondents i.e. students of B.Tech. and resource scholars in ship technology have used the library regularly while 86.67% respondents showed their first preference to books. But only 50% respondents expressed the view that library collection is adequate. The study revealed that 65% respondents consult indexing / abstracting periodicals. The respondents who depended on ship library were found to be 72.65%.

Parker and Davies made a study under the title "the European Information needs of secondary school teachers in Scotland: the recent development in the provision of information to schools and colleges" Interviews were under taken with a small sample of teachers and school librarians in selected school of Aberdeen City and Aberdeen Shire. The result from the survey in Scotland show that there was a need for the network to be extended on a national scale one of the pressing challenges for the centers will be, to provide publication or resources that are designed specially for and
tailored to the needs of teachers and pupils. In addition the survey has highlighted a number of issues:

i. The lack of understanding among teachers of the actual meaning and implications of the European dimension.

ii. The fact that the European damnations is incorporated in only the modern studies syllabus

iii. The information need of teachers – issues relevant to currency of the information, content and levels and sources and format.

iv. The lack of European information provision in the school library.

It was suggested that further research is required to examine on a larger scale the European information need of teachers and in particular what they require in terms of resources

Hart reported that there is highly active information gathering among science, social science and humanities faculty of state university of New York college at Fredonia, New York. Formal sources of information are more important than informal sources, and use of book and journals varies across disciplinary areas.

Devi and Lahiri found that officers of agricultural extension agency in the state of Manipur relied heavily on the department of agriculture for their current information as library system for agricultural information is in a very under –equipped and
undevoloped condition. Further recommendations were made for its improvement.

Pelzer, et. al. studied veterinary medical students at Lowa state university an found a major shift from the use of print indexes and abstracts in 1987 towards the use of computerized indexes and other electronic resources in 1997.

Garg made the study under the title “information seeking patterns of users of engineering institutions in Rajasthan”. This study was confined to the information seeking patterns of the faculty members of the engineering discipline serving in various institutions in Rajasthan, the sample consisted of 200 (30%) faculty members, out of whom 148 responded with a usable response of 134 randomly drawn form the engineering institutions in Rajasthan. The self-design questionnaire was employed to collect data from the subjects. Data has been analyzed with the help of simple statically techniques such as means, standard deviations etc., and then presented in the tabular forms for analysis and interpretation. It was reveled that the use of formal sources of information journals are optimally utilized followed by books, handbooks, conference literature, etc., where as face to face discussion occupy the prime potion succeeded by personal experience, seminar or conference etc., and use of electronic sources of information goes with computer at top of the list followed by radio and TV, Email,
Audiovisual sources, compact disks, online data bases and multimedia. Information sources, users prefer to approach instantly. In order of priority rating and ranking of sources for generation of ideas revealed that thinking made the highest contribution followed by teaching and brain storming conversation.

Sethi and Aharma mentioned in their study that libraries are the most highly used channels for information gathering by the Historians. They are administrative, legisitete, judicial, institutional, personal and archeological records. They depend more on books. Scholars are books of Indian and Foreign origin equally. The consultation of subject periodicals by History scholars was loomed to a small number. Several history scholars have also used feriler of old newspapers, in English and Indian languages. The other sources used sporadically by them included epic and scriptures and folklore including folksongs.

Sasikala, C. in her study “Information Seeking Behavior of Managers in Industry” found that junior managers frequently visit the library than the middle managers and senior managers. Most of the managers (80%) at all the tree levels made efforts to seek information from other sources before visiting the library. A large number of senior and middle managers (63%) used the information for solving the job-related problems. 56% junior managers used information for the same purpose. It was observed that a minority
Audiovisual sources, compact disks, online data bases and multimedia. Information sources, users prefer to approach instantly. In order of priority rating and ranking of sources for generation of ideas revealed that thinking made the highest contribution followed by teaching and brain storming conversation.

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(60%) of managers at both junior and senior levels made self-search followed by assistance by library staff.

Khan and Simons contented a study a sample of 150 lady postgraduate students of Mangalore University. The results indicated that nearly 70% of total respondents approach the library catalogue to seek the required information/book and only 30% respondents do not consult the library catalogue, because they find it as confusing. The abstracts and indexes are used by only 46.5% of the respondents and majority of respondents do not use there because of the non-availability of the same in time. It was found that 88.37% respondents felt that by orientation programmes of the library they could locate/retrieve books/information easily and in systematic manner.

Folster mentioned that journals remain the preferred source of information for social scientist and rank above almost every other source. Reference to relevant materials are identified through the citation from journals in hand rather than utilizing indexing and abstracting services.

Agarwal and Chakroborthy studied 103 scholars of earth sciences. The findings revealed that for 61.16% users current periodicals and for 51.45% users back volumes of periodicals are adequate enough to satisfy their requirements pertaining to their research work. The
results showed that 89.32% scholars consult primary periodicals to keep abreast of current developments in their respective field of study. The second important source for current information in indexing/abstracting periodicals. Information through conference and seminars constitute their third choice. Further, 70.87% scholars expressed that they obtain information by scanning the various issues of the periodicals directly, whereas 29.13% scholars obtain information through indexing/abstracting periodicals.

Izah in his study “Information Needs and Information Seeking Behavior of Agriculture Extension Hlorkers” at the library of National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison services, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria revealed the interaction between colleagues and literature searches conducted via the university library the most pertinent way in which information was sought.

Scammel conducted a survey of information needs of teleworkers in the financial services sector. The study aimed to reach conclusion about the extent to which the information should gear steely to meeting the information needs of this growing community. Semi-structured telephone interviews were conducted with 22 teleworkers and a blend of quantitative and qualitative data was obtained. The findings showed that in house material, journals, magazines, newspapers and newsletters were among the most frequently used sources. The
least used information sources were abstracts or bibliographic services videos, the INTERNET, books, co Roms and external online databases. Only two respondents made use of INTERNET of the remaining 20, 10 said that they are envisaged of using.

Hurst conducted a study under the little “The Special library on Campus: a model for library orientations aimed at academic administration, faculty and support staff”. He conducted that, A library and media center orientation program was developed for administrators, faculty and support staff after examining their information seeking behaviors, prior research and demographics of this group. The goal of the orientation was to promote the library’s and media center’s services and resources to encourage this group to make use of them and to teach them basic skills needed to address their information needs.

Gowda and Valmiki made a study under the title “Libraries’ response to paradigm shifts in Higher Education in India “ Some issues”. They find that conceptual changes that have been taken place in the Indian higher Education system causes for the changes and Universities response to such change. Highlights the libraries’ responses in view of the paradigm. It is in higher education system enumerates the problems of the university libraries and suggests the possible ways and means to overcome the problems.
Singh and Singh conducted a study of "Attitude of Research Scholars Towards the Information Resources and Services of University Delhi Library: A study". They identify the impression of scholars towards the adequacy of library resources, their use of the library, and their view on library services. The findings of the study are that majority of the users, visit the library daily, there is significant difference in the attitude of scholars towards the use library resources and services as being adequate compared to their needs, level of awareness towards the existing facilities are at per and scholars want improvement in the library sources and services.

Wales conducted a study under the title "practice make perfect? Vets' information seeking behavior and information use explored." The objective for the study was to examine a sample of veterinarians in practice, to discover were and by what mean they looked for the information they needed and what use they made of it once found. A random sample 537 practices; a U.K. veterinary practitioner was surveyed and interviewed on behalf of the royal college of veterinary surgeons welcome library to identify key issues in veterinary IU an ISB. A greater proportion of respondents used the Internet for veterinary information then used a veterinary library. The final responses rate was 39%. The findings of this study show that the majority of library users and non-users wanted enhanced library access via the Internet, especially to full text journals.